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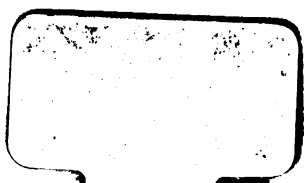
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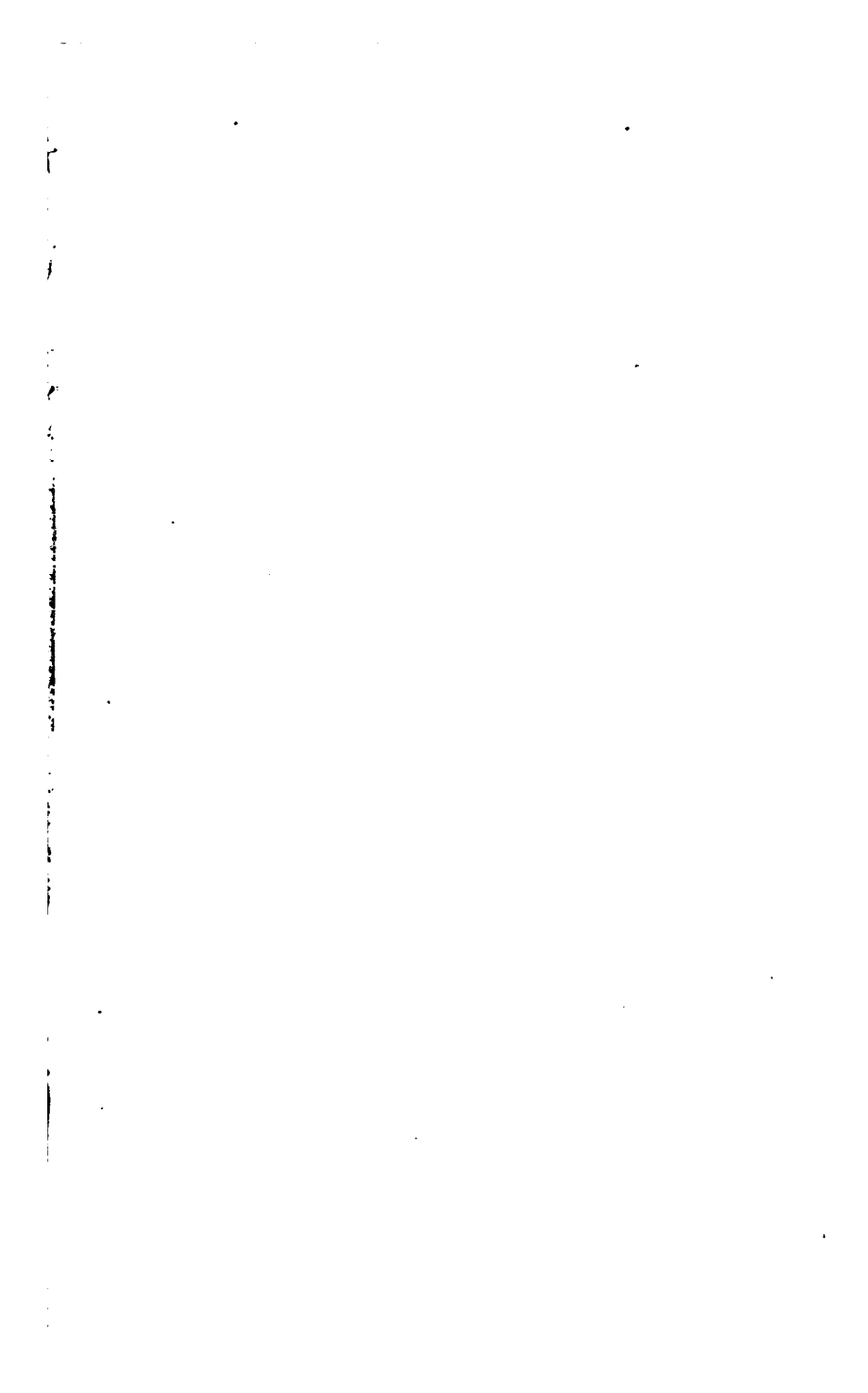
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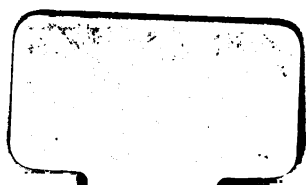
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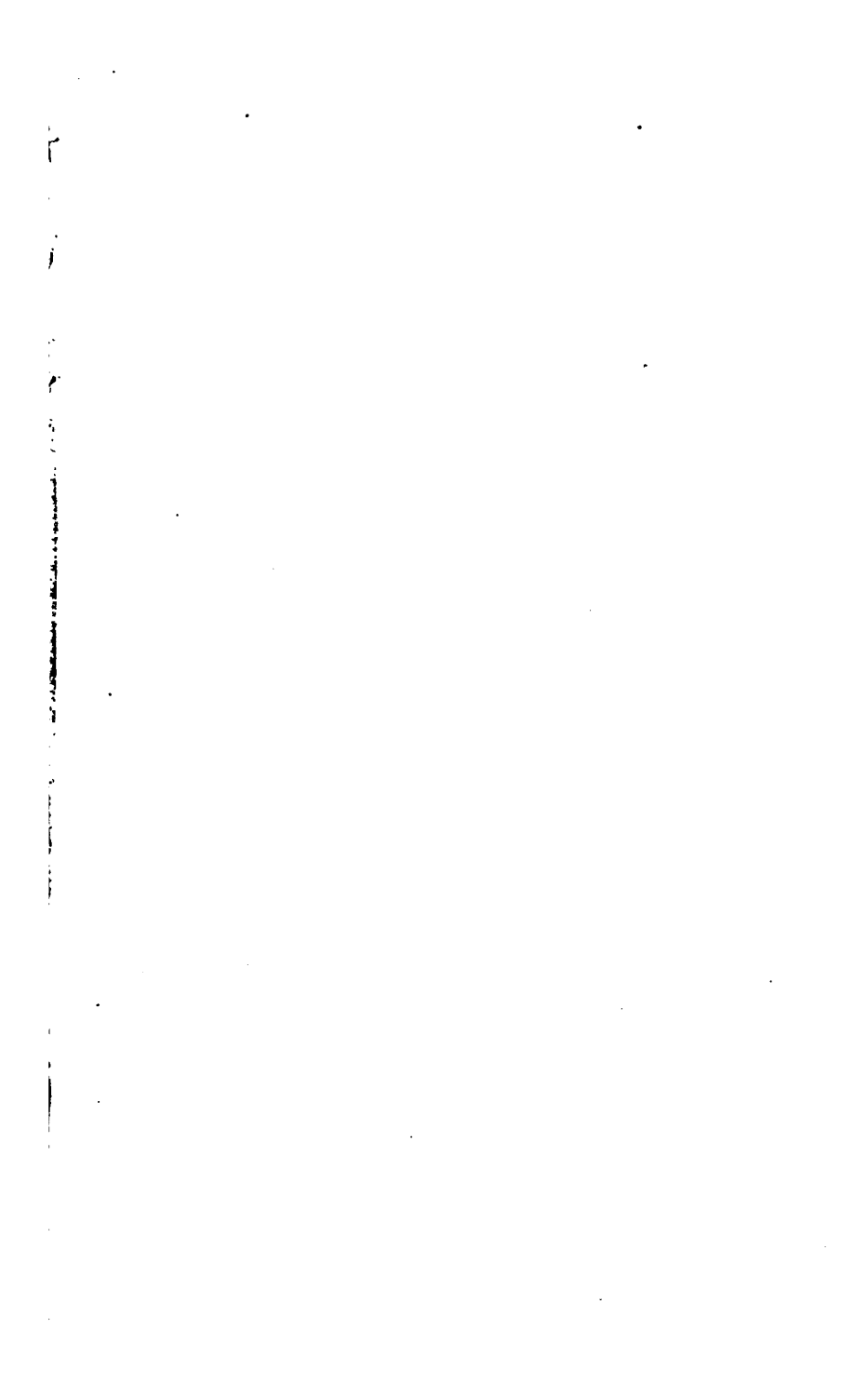
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61



Thos. B. Lewis
THE

BEAUTIES OF THE SHORE;

OR,

A GUIDE TO THE WATERING-PLACES ON THE
SOUTH-EAST COAST OF DEVON:

COMPRISING COPIOUS ILLUSTRATIONS OF

The Antiquities, History, Topography, and Scenery,

OF THE FOLLOWING PARISHES:

SEATON
AXMOUTH
ROWSDOWN
UPLYME
COMBEPYNE
MUSBURY
SHUTE
COLYTON

WIDWORTHY
OFFWELL
NORTH-LEIGH
SOUTH-LEIGH
FARWAY
BRANSCOMBE
SALCOMBE-REGIS
SIDMOUTH

OTTERTON
BICTON
BUDLEIGH
EXMOUTH
WITHECOMBE-RALEIGH
WOODBURY
SIDBURY
HONITON;

AND ACCURATE

DESCRIPTIONS OF THE SEATS OF THE NOBILITY AND GENTRY,
WITH THEIR ARMS;

The Parochial Churches;

ANCIENT CAMPS, CASTLES, ROMAN ROADS, &c.

BY D. M. STIRLING,

MASTER OF THE FREE GRAMMAR SCHOOL OF COLYTON,

AND AUTHOR OF

THE TORQUAY AND TRISHMOUTH GUIDE, HISTORY OF NEWTON-ABBOT, DISCOURSE
ON THE SEASONS, &c.

~~~~~  
"Miratur, facilesque oculos fert omnia circum,  
Æneas, capiturque locis; et singula lætus  
Exquirittque auditque virum monumenta priorum."  
~~~~~



EXETER:

PRINTED FOR THE AUTHOR BY W. ROBERTS.

1838.

*Gough Add. Devon
8/110.*

1000

TO THE HONOURABLE
SIR WILLIAM TEMPLER POLE, BART.

OF SHUTE-HOUSE, DEVON,

AND

TO HIS ILLUSTRIOUS AND AMIABLE

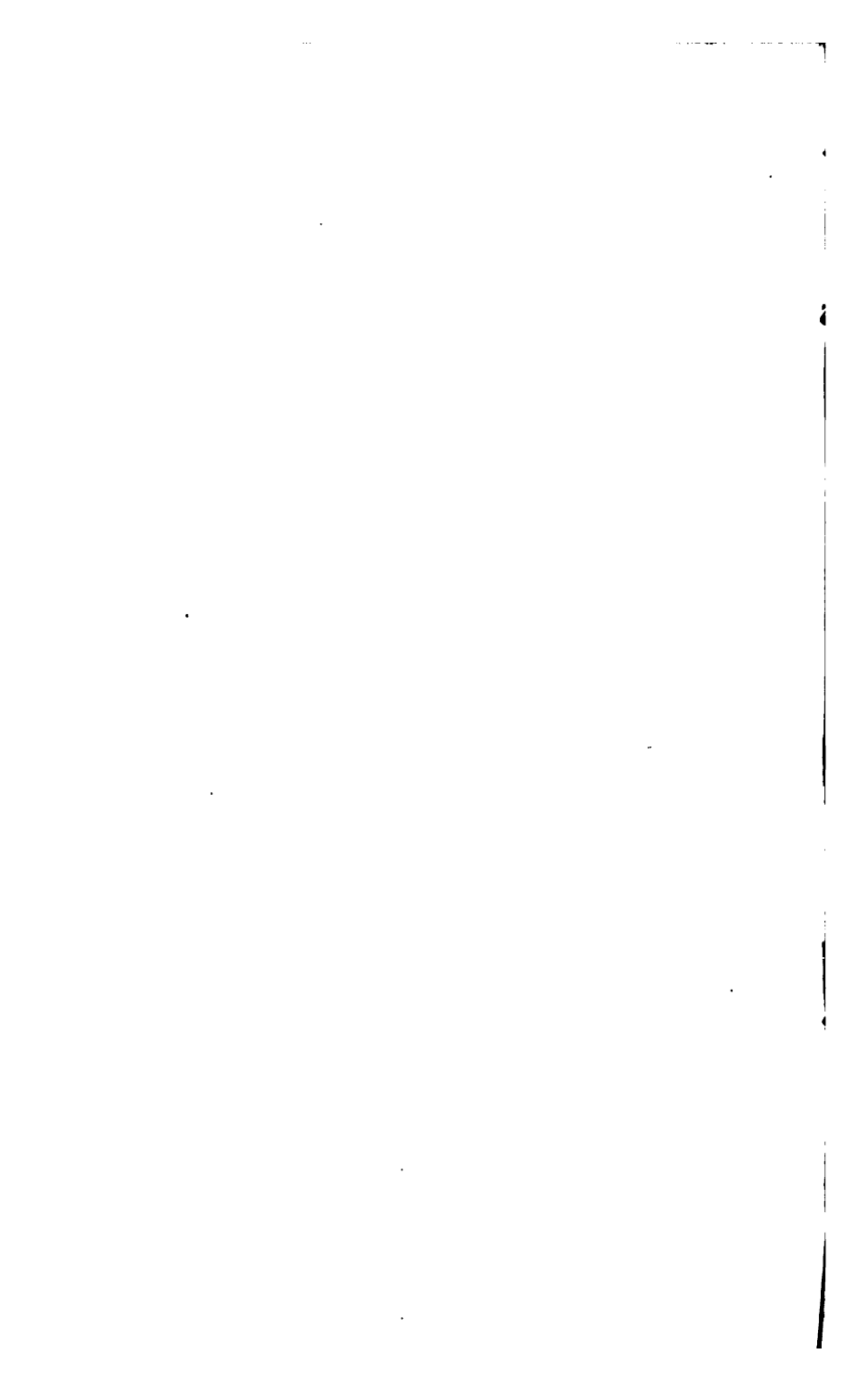
LADY,

THIS WORK IS DEDICATED,

BY

THEIR HUMBLE SERVANT,

D. M. STIRLING.



PREFACE.

LIKE Mr. Carrington, the late esteemed school-master of Devonport, whose name will go down to posterity in his beautiful poem on the banks of the Tamar; and Mr. Patieson, the far-famed village-teacher of Gandercleugh, I devote my vacations, and the short intervals that I can spare from the duties of a considerable school, to literary researches; and hence this volume, the production of many a pensive and abstracted hour.

The limited state of social and reputable society in the small rustic town of Colyton, the beauty of the scenery in the immediate vicinity, with the sweet river Coly running through its long winding vale, and the magnificent contour of hills in the distance, are circumstances which I have found to be favourable incentives to the abstruse inquiries and illustrations in which I have been engaged; yet, on account of the distance between my residence and many of the places enumerated in the work, the heterogeneous nature of the topics it embraces, and the inconvenience expe-

rienced by being twenty-four miles from my printer, inaccuracies may occur in the volume. Those, however, who possess a relish for local history, and topographical delineations, will, I hope, find that my proof is as good as my promise ; if so, and if my little book is entertained as an auxiliary to the dissemination of useful knowledge, my surplus hours at Colyton, have not been misapplied.

D. M. S.

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THE
BEAUTIES OF THE SHORE.

SEATON.

‘Through glory-streaming clouds, the sun’s broad orb
Appears: the gilded vapours wave along
The verdant vale, where bright rivers wind,
Delicious in the sweetness of the morning air:
The shadowy distance melts to fluid gold,
And magic grandeur kindles into day.’

THE south coast of Devon, skirted by the English channel, exhibits a maritime outline, deeply indented by beautiful bays, and depressions, which ingress between rocky and precipitous promontories. From the Start-point in Cornwall to Exmouth, the shore, generally, fronts the south-east, whence it gradually inclines to the south until its connection with the county of Dorset at Lyme. The watering-places, of considerable public resort, on this famous extent of coast, are Torquay, Teignmouth, Exmouth, Budleigh-Salterton, Sidmouth, and Seaton. The latter, the subject of my present disquisition, though in its infancy, is in some respects inferior to but few of the former. But I may, perhaps, best convey an idea of its advantages, by premising my notice of it with a sketch of the beautiful bay on which the town is situated, and the scenery that adorns the vale. The incurvation of the shore is semi-lunar, and embraces, between the projecting capes of Beer-point and Haven Cliff, a distance of more than a

mile: this level and delightful sweep of beach, sparkling with the gems of the ocean—fine sand, variegated pebbles, coralline, madripores, shells, and other marine productions—commands the sinuosity of the magnificent frontier-shore to the bold point of Portland. The town, extending in a north-west direction from the beach along a gentle acclivity, consists principally of three clean and airy streets, forming nearly a right-angled triangle; in the chief of which are situated the head inn, or Pole's Arms, a commodious and well-conducted house, the property of Mr. W. Brown, who has always in requisition gigs, cars, and saddle horses, for the accommodation of the public; the King's Arms, the property of John Head, esq., of Colyton, conducted by Mr. Thorn; and the Golden Lion, the property of Mr. J. Thorn. Here also are some good shops, particularly the wholesale and retail houses of Mr. Ackerman and Mr. Penny. On the strand is the bathing establishment of Mr. Farrant, and the subscription billiard-room. Beside the numerous private families and shopkeepers who let suits of apartments during the bathing season, there are many handsomely-furnished lodging-houses, adapted for the accommodation of families of distinction, to be had on moderate terms. Of the latter may be noticed, particularly, the lodging-houses of J. Snook, gent., and those of Mr. Good; and of the former, the handsome apartments of Mr. Ackerman, and Mr. Penny. The houses of the resident gentry, principally detached, are as follows:—The Beach-house, erected in 1824 by J. Kingdon, esq. at an expence of £3000, and enlarged by its present proprietor, Mrs. Harbin, in 1836; Mount Pleasant, the residence of Mrs. Mortimer; the Manor-house, the property of Sir John Trevelyan, bart.; the Green

Cottage, the property of J. Tanner, esq. surgeon; Seaton-house, the property of W. Head, esq., and residence of Major Still, one of her Majesty's justices of the peace; the residence of W. Head, esq.; the residence of T. Cann, esq., surgeon; the villa of the Rev. F. Holmes; the residence of C. Bartlitt, esq.; the Vicarage, &c.

THE RYALLS.

O Ryalls, how sweetly thy green bosom rises!
Like an emerald set in the ring of the sea.

This elegant mansion, the seat of Capt. Proby, R.N., stands on a commanding eminence south-west of the town, and constitutes an ornament to the neighbourhood. It is a quadrangular building of considerable elegance, erected in 1834 by its present gallant owner, whose arms, impaled with those of his lady's family (How), are cut on a stone over the south entrance. The lawn is extensive, and although the young foresters and ornamental shrub-wood have as yet made but an imperfect development, the situation is one of sustained beauty, embracing in its prospect the whole ranges of wavy hills on either side, extending into the counties of Dorset and Somerset, with the intervening vales of the Axe and Coly, and from every part of the sweetly laid-out lawn a sight is obtained of the mighty ocean thrown into a blue horizontal curve.

THE CHURCH.

"As calm philosophy her aids impart,
To guide the passions, and to mend the heart;
So by her precepts, here we learn the end
To which, with joy, the wise their studies bend."

In a sequestered spot, encompassed by stately elms and rich enclosures, at the north extremity

of the town, stands the ancient church, a low but substantial fabric, which, with the exception of a portion of the north aisle, erected in 1817 by Lord Rolle for the accommodation of his tenants, may be assigned to the latter part of the fourteenth century: the chancel and some of the south aisle, may be of a still earlier date. The nave, including the chancel and belfry, is ninety feet in length by twenty-eight wide; the north aisle is sixty-three feet long by sixteen wide, and the south aisle thirty feet in length by fifteen in width. The south porch is coeval with the tower; the latter, containing four bells, is fifty feet high. Before the pulpit is the pew belonging to Bovey-house: it is enclosed by an ancient oak screen of open tracery, enriched with an under border of quatre-foils, a centre string-course of vine foliage, and under a cornice of trefoils, supported by a roll of cable-twist in the Saxon style, are twelve shields.—1. Walrond, argent, two bulls' faces sable, horned, with a crescent for difference; impaling argent, a lion rampant. 2. Walrond. 3. Fishacre, sable, three fishes haurient, argent.* 5. First repeated. 6. A chevron gules, between three bulls' faces sable; impaling argent, a stag's head caboshed. 7. Walrond, impaling argent and azure, a chevron gules, between three bulls' faces sable and a stag's head argent. 8. Walrond; impaling, gules, two demi-lions passant gardant. 9. Walrond single. The other two coats I could not decipher. In the north aisle are three respectable marble monuments.—1. W. Walrond, esq., 1762-45, and his first wife and infant son; also of Sarah Oke, his second wife:

* Combe Fishacre, in the parish of Ipplepen, was in a family of this name until Henry the Eighth's time, when Alice, daughter of Martin Fishacre, gave it with her daughter in marriage to a Walrond of Bradford.

arms—Walrond; impaling sable, a chevron or, between three oak trefoils slipt. 2. E. Walrond, of Bovey, esq., Sept. 19, 1640-48. 3. W. H. Paulson, midshipman of H. M. ship *Queen Charlotte*, who, with eight others, perished off Sidmouth, June 13, 1817-23. In the chancel is a triangular piscina. This church, dedicated to St. Gregory, with the curacy of Beer annexed, is in the patronage of Lord Rolle, and valued in the Queen's books at £17. 0s. 7½d. It is a vicarage, which, according to the parliamentary returns, is worth £206 per annum. The Rev. C. J. Glasscott is the present incumbent. The vicarage-house is situated at a convenient distance from the church, and near to it is the Sunday school-house, a neat edifice built by subscription.

In the town are chapels for the Wesleyan and Independent connections.

The principal merchants of Seaton are Messrs. William and John Head, who carry on the coal, timber, and iron trades, to a very considerable extent: the former practises as a land-agent and surveyor. Mr. Skinner, and the Harbour Company, also import large quantities of coal and culm.

The walks and drives in and about Seaton are beautiful and interesting. Strong contrasts of scenery diversify the immediate vicinity; beginning on both sides of the town with stupendous naked rocks, rising in solemn majesty over the sublime deep, which are united with verdant eminences, that decline gently into the bosom of the beautiful vale, vested in its robe of green to the margin of the restless ocean. These alternating lines of the picturesque, sublime, and beautiful, flowing into woodland scenes, continue to increase in variety and loveliness as far as the eye can discriminate. From the beach, the views

up the vale comprehend all the seats of the gentry in that direction, as well as other objects of interest—Haven Cliff and Stedcombe-house, seats of J. H. Hallett, esq.; the picturesque village of Axmouth, with its parochial tower, and pleasant vicarage-house on the base of Hawksdown-hill, on the right; and on the left, the Ryalls, the seat of Capt. Proby; Seaton church, enveloped with foliage; Coly Villa, the seat of Capt. Impey; and away on the central horizon, half concealed by gay blandishments of nature,

In stately beauty seated on its hill,
Sacred to classic taste, masonic skill,
Enshrin'd in wood, and verdure ever green,
The well-known mansion of the Poles is seen.

From the charms of the vale, and its sweetly-flowing rivers, the Axe and Coly, we turn to the broad ocean, and in its deep recesses, when illuminated by the sun, or when the paler orb in majestic grandeur streams over its ample bosom, behold the reflecting form of every passing cloud; whilst far away, and as if receding from these scenes of Devonian loveliness, the banners of British commerce wave gaily on the indistinct horizon; and sometimes the channel fleet appears in the offing—

Far in the horizon, flush'd with tyrian glow,
Sails round a point majestically slow;
With canvass crowded, leading on the train,
An English war-ship, lord of ocean's plain.
Now onward moves a second—then ensue
Two more, which near abreast break on the view;
Augmenting still, the gager soon counts nine
Unconquer'd king's ships of the British line,
In slow succession, then in turn appear
Eleven oak-built turrets in their rear;
Of Albion's bulwarks thus sail on a score,
To fence from enemies our sea-girt shore;
Till in the offing of the buoyant green,
Proud rocking, six-and-thirty sail are seen.

Seaton, in Doomsday Book, is Suetetone, the supposed Moridunum in Antonine's Itinerary; so named, it would appear, from "Mor-y-dun. Oppidum magnæ undæ sive maris." Dr. Gale and Dr. Stuckeley, with most of our ancient antiquarians, attribute the latter distinction to Seaton; but our best modern writers give it to Hembury Fort. Antonine's Itinerary is supposed to record the marches of the Roman army, or the appointed routes of the Roman magistrates for the administration of justice; and consequently mentions the various stations on their principal roads, number of Roman miles between them, and the extreme length of each march. Of this work the following is an extract, with the English names of the different places attached:—

"Antonini Iter 15.

A Calleva Iscam Dunmoniorum, MP. 136.

Calleva—Henley. Vindomi (Silchester) 15. Venta Belgarum (Winchester) 21. Brige (Broughton) 11. Sorbioduni (Old Sarum) 8. Vindogladia (Winburn) 12. Durnovaria (Dorchester) 9. Moriduno (Seaton) 36. Iscadum Noniorum (Exeter) 15." The account of the same roads given in the itinerary of Richard of Cirencester, a monk of Westminster, who wrote about the close of the fourteenth century, and whose work, being discovered in Denmark, was published in London in the year 1757, by Dr. Stukeley, varies but little.—"Richardi Iter. 16. A Londinio (London). Ceniam (Tregony). Venta Belgarum (Winchester) 90 MP. Brige (Broughton) 11. Sorbiodunum (Old Sarum) 8. Ventageladia or Vindocladia (Winburn Minster) 12. Durnovaria (Dorchester) 9. Moridunum or Muridunum (Seaton) 33. Isca Danmoniorum (Exeter) 15." Among those who have recently doubted the propriety

of rendering Seaton the Moridunum of the Romans, is James Davidson, esq., of Sacktor, an eminent gentleman, who is at this time searching out and examining the antiquities of the country as with a lighted candle. In his antiquities of Axminster he thus writes:—"If Seaton be Moridunum, and the Ikeneld-way passes through Axminster, as all the writers agree, a road must have struck off to that place at a right angle with its course, which has never been discovered, and is quite opposed to the general direction of Roman military roads. A Roman road, which was in its origin a branch of the British Ikeneld, leads, as we shall find, along the coast about a mile from Seaton; but it is devious and narrow on part of its line, and carries with it no pretensions to a military way. Dr. Gale attributes the distinction to Seaton from one circumstance alone, in which, although misinformed, he has been implicitly copied by many subsequent writers. His words are these:—"Mor, Britannis est mare, et super collem (Dunum) juxta mare eminet hoc oppidum, unde et nomen ei tam antiquum, quam hodiernum, Seaton." This village, on the contrary, is seated entirely in the valley, and its distance both from Dorchester and Exeter disagrees widely with the itineraries. The etymology of "Moridunum," in the Gaelic, denotes "The hill-fortress," which is quite applicable to the situation of Hembury Fort, where Roman coins and other remains have been found, and which is at the intermediate distance from Isca Danmoniorum and Durnovaria, as laid down, with but little variation, in both the itineraries. It is also a remarkable confirmation of Hembury Fort for the site of Moridunum, that the number of Roman miles to that station from Durnovaria, according to Antonine's Itinerary, viz. 36, cor-

responds precisely with the number of English miles from Dorchester to Hembury Fort, viz. 40½, on the line which we are about to trace." * All our ancient writers point to Seaton as having been in early ages a place of considerable importance, with a fair bay and good haven; consequently, and its proximity to the military roads of remote antiquity and the border forts, it, as well as Axmouth, must have been known to the Romans as places of trade. It is evident, from the accounts given us by ancient writers, and the marine remains which have been discovered, that the sea, at some remote period, must have flowed for a considerable way up the vale; and that the mouth of the river Axe extended from the Burrow at Seaton to Haven Cliff, a distance of nearly a mile. Here the Danish prince landed in 957; and in 1347, when Poole and Lyme furnished four ships each for the navy of Edward the Third, Seaton provided two, with twenty-five men. Bishop Lacy, on Sept. 21, 1450, we find, granted forty days' indulgence to true penitents who contributed towards the reparation of a haven at this place—"In novo partu in littore maris apud Seton." Leland, who wrote about the year 1546, represents Axe bridge as impassable at high tides; and adds—"Ther hath beene a very notable haven at Seton; but now ther lyith between the 2 pointes of the old haven a mighty rigge and barre of pible stones in the very mouth of it: and the ryver of Ax is dryven to the very est point of the haven caullid Whit-Cliff, and ther at a very smaull gut goith into the se: and her cum in smaull fischar boats for socour. The toun of Seton is now but a mene thing, inhabited with

* This computation is made by the scale which Sir R. Hoare found to be true—viz. nineteen Roman miles were equal to twenty-one miles and three furlongs English.

fischarmen. It hath beene far larger when the haven was good. The men of Seton began of late days to stake and to make a mayne waulle withyn the haven, to have divertid the course of Ax ryver, and ther almost in the midle of the old haven to have trenched through the chisille, and to have let out Ax and receyvid in the mayne se; but this purpose cam not to effect. Me thought that nature must wrought to trench the chisil hard by Seton town, and ther to let in the se."

In the month of November, 1837, was discovered, at low water, in a deep part of the river a little above the fording-place, the remains of a vessel of about seventy tons burthen, which in all probability has remained in that situation for upwards of three centuries* From this circumstance, as well as others to which I have before alluded, and the fact that fragments of shipping and anchors have been found a long way up the vale, it is obvious that the great liquid volume of nature must have receded from this part of the shore, and thrown together an immense ridge of shingle for the protection of the rich and beautiful green landscape which she has left behind. Previous to the draining of these marshes, by which work a large tract of fine meadow land has been obtained, Seaton, Axmouth, and Colyton suffered severely from the mephitic vapours that rose from the stagnant waters; a circumstance which must have materially tended to decrease the population, and to reduce these places to the low standard in which Leland and other early writers found them. But since that great improvement was effected, the air of Seaton is remarkably pure and healthy, and consequently

* For a continuation of the account of the harbour, see Axmouth.

the town has flourished. The old houses have all been either renewed or extensively repaired, and every successive year produces some neat and substantial new buildings for the accommodation of the public, which bear ample testimony to the correct taste and architectural skill of Mr. Good, the builder. Seaton has long been in reputation a watering-place, but not until of late years did it acquire much celebrity. The establishment of the Axmouth harbour, by the munificence of J. H. Hallett, esq., was a happy prelude to the prosperity of this place; and the subsequent improvement of the roads and walks in the vicinity, together with the adequate accommodation which the town affords, the natural beauties of the situation, the affable deportment of the inhabitants, and the moderate demands made for lodgings and other necessities, have all contributed to command for Seaton the extensive patronage it now enjoys as a watering-place. The manor of Seaton was vested in the abbey of Sherborne, and after the dissolution Henry the Eighth granted it to Catharine Parr, his last wife: subsequently it came by purchase to the Willoughby family; and, about the year 1661, Mary, the heiress of J. Willoughby, esq., brought it by her marriage to Sir G. Trevelyan, bart., whose eldest son parted with it to T. Charter, esq., in 1755; but the present Sir John Trevelyan, bart., finding that the latter purchase was procured by improper means, and for an inadequate compensation, has, by a suit in the Court of Chancery, recovered his manorial rights of Seaton, after having been unjustly deprived of them for the long period of seventy years.

The Rev. J. Smith, a poet of exquisite genius, resided in Seaton for some years, where he wrote the "Seaton Beach," and other poems; and died here in the spring of 1837.

BEER.

Here fishermen expert, ne'er daunted yield,
But try experience 'gainst the dang'rous field;
Summon all former practice to their aid,
Regarding tempests as the rubs of trade.

Leaving Seaton for the village of Beer, if the tide is low, the curious will pursue the winding outline of the beautiful beach, passing under White-Cliff, and the magnificent masses of rock which terminate the bold head-land.

'Tis here the gay will stroll beneath the cliff,
And mark the progress of the scudding skiff;
Where sloops of commerce they'll descry afar,
Or proudly sailing, view the ships of war;
Their pendants flying, and their broad white sails
Swell'd into graceful curves by gentle gales:
Whilst on the right, huge chasms in the rocks,
Hewn by the war of elemental shocks,
In frowning greatness strike the wond'ring eye,
And shew the grandeur of the Deity.

But if the water is rising, the safe route lies by a devious lane over Beer-hill; on the apex of which, the tourist will turn off to the left and walk on the open down to Beer-point, where a length and breadth of scenery but seldom to be met with, extending over a great portion of Devon, Somerset, and Dorset, is commanded. But, picturesque and beautiful as are these landward prospects, it is to the sea, here, that we must turn for the truly sublime; and whilst sea-birds, in thousands, flutter in the midway air around their elevated haunts, see, in the margin of the prodigious expanse below, the magnificent form of the wild rock, shaded amidst innumerable ringlets of green, blue, and azure—nay, every colour and shade of the prism. At the west extremity of the down, in a beautiful cove within the parish of Seaton, is Beer, a name probably

derived from Ber Rhin—Si dictatur. The incurvation of the bay is carefully defended by nature from the violence of the sea, and is capable of being made the best fishing station in the kingdom. Leland says, "At Bereword is an hamlet of fischarmen. Ther was begon a fair pere for socour of shippelettes at this Bereword ; but ther cam such a tempest a 3 years sins, as never in mynd of men had before bene scene in that shore, and tare the pere in peaces." This pier was never renewed, and at this time presents an unseemly ruin at the lower extremity of the village. The houses are built of free-stone, out of the famous quarry of Beer, and in the centre of its long-winding street runs a clear stream of spring water. At the west termination of Beer is a row of twelve Gothic cottages, erected in 1820, for the accommodation of poor people ; and a free-school for poor children by Lady Rolle—Mr. Pass is the present master.

Beer chapel is a compact building, sixty-six feet long by fifty-five wide, and consists of a nave, parallel side aisles, south porch, and a belfry containing one bell. It is supposed to have been erected by a Walrond ; but of the original fabric, the south porch, and, perhaps, but one of the interior arches, is all that now remains. This chapel, with the mother church at Seaton, was vested in the abbey of Sherborne, and in Domesday is thus recorded :—" Ecclesia Hortinensis tenet Beare.* A column of the ancient arch bears the arms of Walrond. In the north aisle is this inscription :—" John, the fifth sonne of W. Starr, of Bere, gent., and Dorothy his wife, which died in the plagve, was here bvried 1646."

* Ther longged and doth yet a chappelle to Seton caullid Bereword near the shore. LELAND.

Near the pulpit, on a pillar of the arch, is a memorial of E. Good, who died November 7, 1804, leaving by will £20, the interest of which to be distributed to the poor at Christmas yearly for ever.

The minister at Seaton holds divine service here once every Sunday; and Lady Rolle, with her well-known generosity, established a Sunday evening lecture a few years ago, which is highly appreciated by the inhabitants.

Bovey-house stands in a very delightful situation about a mile north-west of Beer, and is approached by a splendid avenue of ash, elm, and chesnut trees, of immense growth. Although the encircling grounds, by the innovation of modern improvements, is now divested of many of its feudal botanical enrichments, the ancient house still adorns the place, and is rendered venerable by the lapse of centuries since the period of its erection, and interesting by the associations with which it is connected, as having been the residence of a family, for many generations, whose name will long live in the history of Devon. In the time of the second Henry, Bovey was given, by the abbot of Sherborne, to Wide de Agevill; and about the close of the reign of Henry the Third it came to Walrond, by Amisia, the wife of Allan Dagvill, and daughter of W. Walrond, of Bradford; in which name it continued until 1778, when it passed to its present noble owner, Lord Rolle, by his lordship's marriage to the heiress of H. Walrond, esq.

The parish of Seaton and Beer is in the hundred of Colyton, and its annual value of real property, according to the assessment of 1815, is £5,684. Population, 1,803.

AXMOUTH.

“ In her once glowing vest, to thee my lyre
 Shall oft be tuned, and to thy nereids green,
 Long, long unnoticed, in their haunts retired.
 Nor will I cease to prize thy lovely strand,
 Thy towering cliffs, nor the small babbling brook
 Whose shallow current laves thy deep-sunk vale.”

At the bound-post, on Seaton beach, we enter upon the precincts of Axmouth; and having crossed the Axe by the ferry-boat, and paused to survey the new harbour, with its deep-dark flood rolling into the bosom of the ocean, we ascend the steep eminence by a winding path, and after passing Haven Cliff, a seat of John Hallett, esq., justly admired for its picturesque attractions, soon reach the telegraphic apex of the cliff, from whence wide and diversified prospects of both sea and land are commanded in beautiful and sublime perspective. The tourist who haply sojourns here in that sweet hour when the orb of day is retiring from his grateful labours, and in all his solemn magnificence gilding the glassy waters below with reflected rays, and the leafy imagery of the shore with luxuriant beams,—when every passing cloud breathes forth liquid fire, and Apollo’s brightest and noblest honours are shed on every hill,—will, if capable of appreciating the munificent combinations of nature, become, as it were, an amalgamated drop in the ocean of heavenly benevolence which waves in every varied exhibition throughout the extensive landscape, and derive instruction, of the most divine character, from all that his eye can reach, or his improved and appropriating taste appre-

hend. On descending the north side of this beautiful eminence, we pass Bindon, the ancient residence of Nicholas Bach; which, in the time of Henry the Fourth, was sold to R. Wyke, whose family retained it for several descents, and until one moiety by marriage, and the other by purchase, came to the family of Erle. Sir Walter Erle enjoyed a very considerable estate here, with the parsonage impropriate. Bindon was sold by Thomas Erle Drax, esq., to T. Jenkins, esq., of Sidmouth; who, about ten years ago, disposed of it to its present proprietor, Mr. T. Dare, of Colyton. The old house, though dilapidated, still presents striking characteristics of feudal respectability. The elliptical and flattened arches of the doors and windows—the spacious hall—the broad oak stair—and, above all, the domestic chapel, with its Gothic piscina richly ornamented with tabernacle work, irresistibly tend to carry back the mind to the associations, incidents, and genius, which prevailed among our fathers in early ages.

Higher Bindon, anciently parcel of the last-mentioned property, went, by purchase, from H. Barry to W. Mallock, who sold it to Mr. Cheek; and that gentlemen presented it, about the year 1773, to its late possessor, Mr. R. Bartlett, of Axminster, whose family now retain it.

The village, consisting of a clean and airy street of neatly thatched cottages, is situated at the west extremity of the deep-sunk vale, which winds between the eminences of Hawksdown and Haven Cliff, and being screened from the bleak winds by these noble barriers of nature, and opening full on the rivers Axe and Coly, the situation is one of the most delightful in the neighbourhood. The ancient church, with its picturesque tower, and the vicarage-house, are,

however, the most distinguishing ornaments of this rural village:—the latter, now the residence of the Rev. George Comyns, who was appointed curate by his revered uncle, the Rev. Richard Hallett, in July, 1835, is seated on a commanding spot at the foot of Hawksdown-hill, and, overlooking the village, embraces pleasant views of Seaton vale, the opposing heights, and the flanking ocean. Mr. Halse's new house is a neat one.

The church is a respectable edifice of very considerable antiquity. Its west entrance presents a handsome arch, which, in some respects, resembles the Saxon style of architecture. Within, it measures one hundred feet in length by forty in width, and is divided into a chancel, a nave opening into a south aisle by four heavy pointed arches; and a north porch now converted into a robing room, which I take to be Saxon workmanship, owing to the zig-zag mouldings, and other characteristics of that style it exhibits.

In the north wall of the chancel, under a blunt arch, is a recumbent effigy of an ecclesiastic with the maniple on his breast, and a dog or lion at his feet. There is no inscription; but the monument, by a legend, much credited in the parish, is said to represent a person who gave to the church of Axmouth, for ever, a small plat of ground, now known by the cognomen of the Dog-acre Orchard, as a ransom for having his favourite dog interred at his feet here. The Dog-acre Orchard has been enjoyed by the clergyman for the time being from time immemorial; but no record, that I have been able to discover, remains to show for what purpose it was originally bestowed: as, however, it is no uncommon circumstance to find figures of this sort attached to monuments of the thirteenth century, to which period this one may be assigned, I can give no

credence to the romantic tale that the dog was buried here.

On a stone of the pavement, on the same side, I observed an inscription, much defaced—"John ——— 1654." Arms—Parted per pale three bees volant, and counterchanged within a border. And near to it, on a similar stone, "Hercules Pyne, gent., 1610." Arms—A chevron between three pine cones; surmounted by the crest—a horse's head erased. Against a pier of the arch communicating with the nave, stands a handsome Corinthian monument, erected in 1749, by the respectable family of Hallett. Over its cornice, supported by two angels, is the family shield—Or, a chief engrailed sable; over all, on a bend engrailed gules, three bezants, surmounted by the crest—a demi-lion holding a bezant—impaling the device of pole: and on the centre panel of the base are repeated the cognizance of Hallett, impaled with Erle. In the south aisle is a fine old monument for some of the ancient family of Erle, bearing their arms—Argent, a chevron gules, between three barnacles sable.

This vicarage, the first-fruits of which are £22. 19s. 2d. and yearly tenths £2. 7s. 11d. belongs to the diocese of Exeter, and deanry of Honiton.* Patron, John Hallett, esq., of Stedcombe-house.† The parochial registers, which show that the number of baptisms in 1835 were

* James Davidson, of Secktor, esq., in reply to some inquiries of mine regarding a chapel said to have once existed at Whitlands, thus writes:—"I never heard of a chapel at Whitlands, but there was one not far from it, perhaps at Charlton, as I have a memorandum to the following effect from the Rev. George Oliver:—'I find St. Leonard's Chapel described in a deed dated 24th March, 1417, fol. 238, vol. 1, Stafford's Register, as situated in villula de Dona infra parochiam de Axemouth.'"

† Stedcombe-house was taken by Prince Maurice on April 22d, 1664. RUSEWOOD.

27, burials 12, and marriages 7, begin with 1603, and have been kept in a regular and respectable manner down to 1813, when the act of George the third placed these useful records on a better footing.

Stedcombe-house, situate about half a mile north of the village, was, from the close of the reign of Henry the third, successively possessed by Roger de Vere, Courtenay, earl of Devon,* Sir Peter Carew, and Yonge. Sir Walter Yonge sold this property, in 1691, to R. Hallett, esq., of Lyme, who gave it to his nephew, R. Hallett, esq., who married Meliora Hothersall, of Giddy-Hall, Essex, by whom he had two sons, John and Richard. The latter died young, and the former succeeded his father, and married Jane, only daughter of Thomas Southcott, esq., of Dulcis, and left two sons, Southcott and Richard Hothersall. Southcott Hallett died unmarried, in 1772, and was succeeded by his brother, the Rev. R. H. Hallett, who died January 7, 1814, and whose son, John Hothersall Hallett, esq., is the present proprietor of Stedcombe. The house, a mansion of considerable elegance, erected in 1697, by R. Hallett, esq., is seated on the south elevation of a beautiful hill, which in form has been aptly assimilated to that of Mount Vesuvius. Green pastures, sylvan decorations, and encircling hedge-rows, with the rivers Axe and Coly in front, and noble flanking woodlands behind, rendered vocal by the denizens of heaven, are, during the fruitful seasons of joy and gladness, the grateful associations and delightful characteristics of this beautifully retired place. Now, however, it is winter,† and the unusual fridity

* Stedcombe and Buckland Trill belonged to the earls of Devon until the attainder of the marquis. CLEVELAND.

† Christmas, 1835.

of the season having swept the lines where beauty lingered, the gay and gorgeous imagery of nature is withdrawn—

But soon reviving plants and flowers
Anew shall deck the plain;
The woods shall hear the voice of spring,
And flourish green again.

Buckland Trill,* now the property of the family of the late R. C. Bartlett, esq., of Axminster, was long in the family of Trill, and at the termination of the reign of Edward the Third was purchased by Hugh Courtenay, earl of Devon, and came from Carew to W. Yonge, esq., of Sidbury, by purchase, in the fourth year of Edward the Sixth. Whitland and Pinney, says Polwhele, were both held by lease, under Lord Petre, in 1773, when the former was in the possession of Mrs. Callard, and the latter of Mrs. Oke. Buckland-Prior,† in the fifth of Elizabeth, was sold by Hubert Collwyll, of Exeter, to John Yonge, esq., of Axminster, with Diggon's, or Hening's Down.

The manor of Axmouth was given by Rivers, earl of Devon, to the abbey of St. Mary, in Normandy. At the dissolution of foreign monasteries, it was transferred by Henry the fifth to the abbey of Sion, in which it was continued by Henry the seventh; and after the final dissolution of religious houses, the eighth Henry, in 1544, gave it in dowry to his queen, Catherine Parr. In 1552, Edward the sixth granted this manor to

* Hen. 8. in the 36th of his reign granted to Sir G. Carew the manors of Stedcombe and Buckland Trill. Fourth Edward the sixth sale from Sir Peter Carew to Walter Yonge, of Sidbury, and John, his son, of Buckland Trill.

† Richard de Riparis, earl of Devon, founded an alien priory cell here, and gave it to the abbey of Mountbourg, in Normandy.

CLEVELAND.

Walter Erle, esq., groom of his privy chamber. with extensive privileges. T. Erle, in 1679, sold it to Sir W. Yonge, from whom it was purchased, in 1691, by R. Hallett, esq., and so has descended to the present lord, J. H. Hallett, esq.

If Axmouth was a Roman station, as some writers suppose, its name, probably, was Uxelis, from Uch Ael is, a town on the edge of the water. The parish is about four miles long by three in width, and is bounded on the south by the sea, east by Uplyme, north by the parishes of Axminster and Musbury, and west by those of Colyton and Seaton. The population, by the last census taken, was 646; and the registered voters in 1835 were 80, and the rates collected for the poor amounted to £260.

Risdon, who wrote in the year 1630, says—
“ Axmouth lieth on the east side of the river Axe, where it poureth itself into the sea, from whence it hath the name. The place is a large fair bay, and hath in former times yielded good harbour to ships tost in tempestuous weather. It appeareth, that in this place divers works have been attempted, for the repairing of the old decayed haven, but of late years with better success than formerly, by T. Erle, esq., lord of the land; who, when he had brought the same to some likelihood, was taken away by death, leaving his labours to the unruly ocean, which, together with unkind neighbours (by carrying away the stones of that work), made a great ruin of his attempt. But the now lord thereof, his son, hath not only repaired the first ruins, but proceedeth on with purpose to bring to pass that which before him his father intended, as well for the general good of the kingdom, as particularly for these parts.”
Sir W. Pole, who wrote about ten years later than Risdon, gives us an account of the total

failure of this work :—" Here the river Axe un-ladeth his waters into the sea, and it appears by old works and piles that there hath been a haven, which Thomas Erle, esq., and Sir Walter his son, attempted to renew, but, after much expense, they were obliged to abandon the undertaking." In 1806 a respectable meeting of the gentry and inhabitants of the neighbourhood was convened by the lord of the manor of the adjoining parish of Seaton, at which a practical scheme was proposed for the recovery of the ancient haven; but, although universally approved of as a work of great public utility, the design was not adequately supported. Subsequently, however, John Hallett, esq., lord of Axmouth, in a most spirited manner commenced the work, and has, in a very ingenious way, constructed and completed a commodious harbour in the mouth of the Axe, capable of admitting vessels of 150 tons burthen. As an establishment of public utility, this is probably the greatest that has ever been effected in this part of the country. It proves extensively advantageous, not only to Seaton and Colyton, but to the circumjacent towns at a distance. Since the completion of this valuable work, extensive coal, culm, and timber yards, have been erected on both sides of the river; and regular trading vessels to and from London, weekly, have been established.

Some remains of the old haven are still visible at the ferry. It appears to have been destroyed as much by the land flood, as the surges of the sea, the river having evidently forced its present channel through the centre of it. The stratum on which the new pier is erected declines gradually towards the site of the old haven, where it disappears, nor is it to be found in the sea outside. We may, therefore, infer that the principal

cause of the failure of the old works was its defective foundation.

THE RIVER AXE.

From the embouchure of the river Axe, to its source at Axnoble or Axnoller, in Dorsetshire, glows an extent of scenery, which in famous Devon, is rivalled only by the hallowed banks of the Teign and Tamar. It is supposed to be the Aleanus of Ptolemy, and rises about a mile east of Beaminster, in ground called Axnoble, belonging to Sir Giles Strangeways; and from thence flowing south-west for nearly nine miles, it reaches Ford Abbey, in Devon, and there forms a limes between that county and Somerset: then crossing an angle of Dorsetshire, it again enters Devon, and proceeds to Axminster, where it is crossed by a bridge of three arches, and a short distance therefrom receives the Yarty, a clear sportive stream from Otterford, in the county of Somerset. From this point, through meadowy enclosures of the greatest fertility and beauty, embosomed by fine eminences, on which agriculture displays its tinted charms, the capricious, yet beautiful, Axe, flows between its romantic banks on to Colyford marsh, where it is crossed by a handsome iron bridge of one arch, whose space measures fifty feet. Opposite the village of Axmouth it receives the Coly, and then winding in a circuitous direction eastward, for about a mile, it falls into the ocean at the harbour. The tides flow up the Axe and Coly for several miles, and during their continuance add considerably to the beauty of the landscape. Then—

Hail to the rising waters,
Bright, buoyant, fresh, and free;
Hail to thee, dimpling daughter
Of the far-rolling sea!

Pure from the azure fountain
 Of the unfathom'd main,
 Thou bring'st to the parched mountain
 The cup of joy again.
 Voices of music follow
 Thy silver-sandall'd feet;
 Rock, mead, and woodland hollow.
 The ocean-stranger greet.
 But now as swiftly fleeting
 Unto her native deep,
 See the bright nymph retreating;
 Away the wild waves leap.

ROWSEDOWN.

WITH the exception of Hacombe, near Teignmouth, this is the smallest parish in England, and consists only of one farm, measuring 400 acres, on which is a respectable house, and the parish church; it occupies high ground on the north-east side of the parish of Axmouth, and no doubt derived its name from Ralph de Downe, its ancient lord. The family of Downe resided here in the time of Henry the second. Pascasius de Downe made his last will in the year 1341, by which he bequeathed his soul to God, and his body to be buried in St. Mary's church, Axminster.* By Isabella, daughter of Hugh de Downe, this land came to J. Holcombe, in which name it remained for six descents, the last of whom, Gilbert, sold it to Mr. Mallock. In 1773, Robert, father of the late R. C. Bartlett, esq. had this estate from the Mallock family, and it is now vested in R. C. Bartlett, esq. The church† is a

* Radulfus de Downe, debet totum jus suum in manerio de Donne Raphe in parochia, fratri suo Pascasio in consideratione annuitatis duran vita sua.

† Thes. Eccles. R. Mallock, 1699. W. Breton, esq. 1734. T. Mallock, 1767. Robert Bartlett, esq. 1783.

small thatched edifice, without pews, and only one window, measuring thirty feet long by fifteen feet wide. From time immemorial it has not been used as a place of worship, and is only supported as a burial repository for the family of Bartlett. It is a rectory dedicated to St. Pancras, and in the king's books valued at £2. 10s. 10d.—certified value, £5. Patron R. C. Bartlett, esq.*

UPLYME.

THIS parish, known in Domesday Book by the name of "Oplomie," terminates the south-east angle of Devonshire, and is so designated in opposition to Nether-Lyme, or Lyme-Regis, a sea-port, parliamentary borough, and watering-place of the county of Dorset, from which it is separated by a small stream issuing from the north, and running through that town into the sea. The manor of Uplyme was at an early period vested in the abbey of Glastonbury; and Nicholas Pinnock gave lands here to the same foundation:—"Nicholas Pinnocke fil. et læres Nicholi, conc. Abat. de Glaston unam virgat. ter. cum officio bedelarii de Uplime libertat. una cum reversione terr. quæ Johannes Wotton et Iditha ux. ejus ten. Test. Willielmo Humphraville mil. Will. Uplegh, Ric. Okebeer. Dat. 42 Edw. 3."

This manor, after its surrender to Henry the eighth, was purchased by John Drake, esq., of Ash; and in 1773 Lady Drake possessed it, with the presentation of the church. Sir John Talbot, of Rhode-hill, in the same parish, is the present lord of the manor of Uplyme.

* Rowsedown returns one house, and a population of fourteen.

The manor of Wear, in this parish, was long held by the family of Williams; but, in 1826, James Davidson, esq., of Secktor, near Axminster, purchased a portion of it from Admiral W. P. Williams Freeman.

The village of Uplyme, with its ancient church, and handsome rectory-house, occupies a romantic station in a vale among the hills, six miles south of Axminster, and two north-west of Lyme-Regis.

The church, seated on a fine rising ground north of the village, is dedicated to St. Peter and St. Paul. Though small, it is a substantial old building, enlarged at various periods, as the dissimilarity of the windows testify. The fabric comprises a chancel and nave, both measuring about sixty-three feet within the walls in length, by sixteen wide; a north aisle, fifty-one feet long by twelve in width, which communicates with the nave by four pointed arches that spring from plain octagonal columns; a south porch; and a heavy tower, sixty feet high, containing three bells. The following records of the dead are within the church:—1. Tablet for Nicholas Vere, rector of this place for thirty-nine years, Jan. 16, 1809, aged 78; and Frances his relict, March 11, 1810, aged 73. 2. Tablet for Frances E. A. Vere, Sept. 17, 1823, aged 50; and Charlotte Vere, her sister, Jan. 14, 1832, aged 57. 3. Brass plate on the wall, for Catharine, daughter of the Rev. T. Collyer, rector of Gislingham, Suffolk, aged nine weeks.

In the nave—1. A neat tablet, with an urn, for Ann, wife of Robert Williams, esq., of Rhodenhill, in this parish, and eldest daughter of Thos. Leigh, esq., of Iver, in the county of Bucks, who died Nov. 25, 1804, aged 54. Arms—Gules, a demi-wolf argent, issuant from a rock, for Williams; impaling gules, a cross engrailed argent,

in the dexter chief point a lozenge of the second, for Leigh: under which is a memorial of Lieut. Colonel Williams, Jan. 6, aged 31. North aisle—
 1. Tablet for Mrs. Ann Stuart, July 12, 1805; and the Rev. J. Stuart, 1809, aged 62. 2. Tablet (over the south entrance) for W. Alfred, L.L. R.N. Sept. 26, 1827, aged 30. 3. — Jones, gent., of Ware, in this parish, June 11, 1718, aged 87. 4. John Jones, of Cannington, gent., Jan. 26, 1651, aged 66; Martha, wife of J. Jones, of Uplyme, Sept. 7, 1703; and Mary, their daughter, 1688, aged 26. 5. John Forrester, Feb. 2, 1721, aged 23; and Bridget his wife, July 10, 1745. 6. J. J. Forrester, Feb. 23, 1738, aged 18. 7. Tablet for E. Rose Dare, May 18, 1830, aged 42.

The registers, which are perfect, and have been well kept, begin with 1710.

The rectory-house, the pleasant residence of the Rev. C. W. Ethelston, the esteemed clergyman of the parish, occupies an elevated station at the south extremity of the village, and commands some lengthy views of the devious vale and encircling hills.

Rhode-hill, the seat of Sir John Talbot, K.C.B. rear-admiral of the blue, stands on the south declivity of a lofty eminence, about a mile north-east of the church. It is a handsome and pleasantly situated mansion.

The Ikeneld-way passes through this parish, and the discovery of the following relics of antiquity show that the district must have been, at some remote period, possessed by the Romans:—
 In 1817, a man turned up an article in gold, fourteen inches long, and something more than an eighth of an inch in diameter, terminating at the ends like the top of a ramrod. In a field, called Holcombe, a man, some years ago, when removing a large heap of stones, here called “a

stone-burrow," discovered an earthen vessel, containing a great number of Roman coins. And again, in 1818, a Roman deposit was found in a field called "Shellacres," on Higher Wild farm, about the fourth part of a mile from the Ikeneld, consisting of twenty-two silver coins, ten only of which are in tolerable preservation—viz. five of Antoninus Pius, one of Domitian, one of Vespasian, one of Trajan, one of Lucilla, wife of Lucius Verus, and one of Marcia Otacilia Severa, wife of Julius Philippus.*

Pinney Cliffs, perhaps the most remarkable scene of wild beauty on this coast, are situated on a lonely, but prominent, part of the shore, about a mile and a half west of Lyme. Some writers of distinction (the earl of Chatham for one) have essayed to describe this romantic feature of our eastern shore; but the beauty and variety of its combinations, and peculiar characteristics, are beyond the power of language to delineate, and therefore requires to be seen to be adequately appreciated and admired. The component parts of this rich landscape are, green mountains, sweetly-secluded vales, rugged cliffs, small pastoral plains, towering rocks, and little hills—all thrown together, and so blended, that it would be difficult to say which is the leading feature in the picture. After the reformation, when nonconformists were forbidden by law to assemble for divine worship, they met secretly in this solitary place, and held communion with their God at the foot of a high cliff, still called "White Chapel Rock." During the summer months, pic-nic and other rustivating parties resort to Pinney to spend a pleasant day; on whose approach, a guardian bird sounds the bugle note of

* See Davidson's Antiquities of Axminster.

alarm, and in a moment the whole scene becomes animated by the thousands of jack daws and sea birds, which nestle in the fissures of the rocks, These coy natives, and the open sea in front, give additional interest to the charms of this romantic spot.

COMBE-PYNE

Is situated in a narrow romantic vale, which sweeps eastward in a semi-circular form from the Musbury hills to Uplime, and is four miles east of Colyton, and about the same distance from Lyme and Axminster. The whole parish contains 800 acres, and, by the last returns, 142 inhabitants, of whom only two were registered voters. Mr. Kebby is the chief farmer.

The earliest name of this place, that I can find, was Com-Coffin, then possessed by Elias Coffin, whose daughter, Alice, brought it by her marriage to Sir T. Pyne—hence Combe-Pyne. The daughter of Pyne, by her marriages, brought this property to the families of Bonville and Umfravile, but ultimately came, by purchase, to Sir W. Bonville, and from that family to Lord Petre. W. Knight, esq., of Axminster, Mr. Edwards, of Chard, and Mr. Farrant, a few years ago purchased the manor.

The church is what Leland would have called "a mene thing." It consists of a low chancel fourteen feet long by twelve wide; the main body twenty feet long by fifteen wide; a belfry, containing three small bells, eleven and a half feet square; and a north porch. The nave being about four feet higher than the chancel, and the belfry of a still greater altitude than the nave,

the edifice, from the confines of the vale, has the appearance of an ancient pack-saddle. In the south wall of the chancel is a Gothic piscina, and a large niche. The registers, up to 1813, are the worst kept that I have ever seen: they consist of loose leaves, among which the oldest dates that I could find were—marriages, Aug. 1, 1757; baptisms, July the 24th, and burials, the 10th, 1796. In the king's books the living is valued at £8. 11s. 8d.—certified value, £42. Patron, Lord Petre.

MUSBURY.

IN Doomsday this parish is Musberie; in other early records it is Muchberry. The chief manor of Musbury, computed at eight hides of land, the Conqueror took from Ailmer, and gave to Baldwine, baron of Okehampton, from whom it descended to the Courtenays, earls of Devon; but on the attainder of Henry, marquis of Exeter, this land escheated to the crown, and Henry the eighth gave it to Sir E. North; but afterwards it came, by purchase, to John Drake, esq., of Ash.

Ash, the ancient seat of the Drake family, was given by John, Lord Courtenay, to Henry de Esse, or de Ash, and descended to Drake. Passing over many descents of this property, we come to John Drake, who by his wife, Amy, daughter of Roger Granville, of Cornwall, had issue, Sir Bernard, of Ash, Robert, of Wiscombe, and Richard, of Surry. Sir Bernard Drake, who had been serviceable to his country as a soldier in the Spanish wars of Elizabeth, and Sir Francis Drake, the circum-navigator, had a dispute, occasioned by the latter's assumption of the former's

arms. Sir Francis not being able to prove his descent from Sir Bernard's family, the feud increased to such a degree, that Sir Bernard meeting Sir Francis at court, gave him a box on the ear, which incurred the displeasure of her majesty, who, in consequence, gave Sir Francis a new coat illustrative of his great enterprize—a ship on a globe under reef, held by a cable rope, with a hand out of the clouds: in the rigging was hung up by the heels a wivern gules, the arms of Sir Bernard. Soon after this, however, Sir Bernard was received into favour, and, in 1585, knighted, but died in the following year, in consequence of infection communicated by the prisoners in the castle of Exeter, when he officiated as a magistrate at a gaol delivery, and was succeeded by his son John. Sir John Drake, who married Jane, daughter of Sir John Yonge, of Colyton, was knighted, and made a baronet, by Charles the second; and Sir William Drake, who married Judith, daughter of Eveleigh of Talaton, esq., was knighted by James the second, and at the death of his brother, Sir Bernard, became also a baronet. This latter Sir John, by Jane his wife, had issue, Sir John Drake, who rebuilt Ash-house, which had been demolished in the civil wars: he also enclosed a park at Ash, which he ornamented with fish-ponds, walks, and gardens; but lived only a short time to enjoy the fruit of his improvements. Of this once notable mansion, the chapel, and some of the inferior parts of the ancient building, now remain. The chapel, with the ancient arms * of Drake cut in stone over its front entrance, is now used as an apple-house and granary.

* Argent, a wivern with wings displayed gules. Crest—A spread eagle on a helmet. Motto—Aquila non capit muscas.

Ash* is memorable, as being the birth-place of John Churchill, the great duke of Marlborough. His father, Sir Winston Churchill, having suffered in his fortune, on account of his adherence to Charles the first in the civil wars, was obliged to take refuge here, with his wife Elizabeth, at the house of her father, Sir John Drake, of Ash; where their son John, afterwards duke of Marlborough, was born on Midsummer-day, 1650.

This property now belongs to Mrs. Kinglake, of Somerset.

The manor of Ford, or de la Ford, lies in Musbury. John of Devonshire, or de Forda, who was chaplain and confessor to King John, was probably born here, as a family of that name flourished in the parish at a very early period, from whom this land descended to the family of Pole,† and is now vested in Sir W. T. Pole, bart.

W. Baker, gent., is a respectable proprietor, and Mr. Read and Mr. Flood are wealthy farmers, in this parish.

The church of Musbury, dedicated to Saint Michael, is situated in the village, near the south-east extremity of the parish, and is in length sixty-four feet, in breadth thirty-eight, in height twenty-two, and its square tower, containing five bells, is fifty-one feet high. In the south-east side of the fabric are four monuments belonging to the Drake family, once of great elegance, but now in a mutilated state. 1. John Drake, of

* In August, 1777, Ash was advertised to be let, and in the following year it became the residence of Sir J. de la Pole, bart., just then come of age; but on September 25 in the same year a fire broke out on the premises, which consumed the stables, and destroyed thirteen of Sir John's hunters, with the dairy, laundry, brew-house, and all the out-houses, but leaving the dwelling-house uninjured.

† We sometimes find the arms of De la Ford quartered by Pole—Sable a poppy, with roots and fruit or.

Ash, esq., Oct. 4, 1558; his wife, Feb. 18, 1577. Sir Bernard Drake, knight, April 20, 1586, whose effigy is here in statue. John Drake, esq., April 2, 1628; Dorothy his wife, Dec. 13, 1631. Sir John Drake, knight, Aug. 26, 1636. Dame Mary Rosewell, wife of Sir Roger Rosewell, knight, Nov. 4, 1643. Walrond Drake, April 9, 1674. Sir John Drake, bart., March 13, 1783. Elizabeth Drake, Nov. 17, 1694. Dame Judith, wife of Sir W. Drake, knight and bart., May 14, 1701. In the south-west aisle is a monument of N. Gundry, esq., lord chief justice of the Common Pleas, who died of the jail fever at Launceston, March 30, 1754, aged 53. In the north aisle are two monuments—1. The Rev. W. Salter, forty-four years rector, March 17, 1770,—75. 2. Alice Salter, his wife, March 27, 1754.

It is not apparent that any of the heads of the Drake family were interred at Axminster before Sir William, who died about the year 1736, and and in whom the title was extinct.

The first-fruits of this rectory are £19. 11s. 8d.—yearly tenths, £1. 19s. 2d. From time immemorial the patronage of Musbury was in the family of Drake, from whom the Tuckers, of Axminster, had it by purchase; and the Rev. G. Tucker, the present incumbent, a few years ago sold the reversion of it to W. Payne, esq., who also possesses the manor, and a considerable portion of the land of the parish.

“Musbury,” says Sir W. Pole, “lieth in both the hundreds of Axminster and Axmouth, now in reputation on, but anciently two hundreds. The manor divideth the two hundreds by a little stream running in the middle of the village.” The intrenchment, commonly named Musbury Castle, constitutes the remains of one of a chain of forts which extended from the sea at Axmouth

northward for a considerable distance inland. From the opinions that have been given by the learned, of these ancient earth-works, it appears that the Morini, who, after having conquered the Durotriges, a Celtic tribe, established themselves in the county of Dorset, and assumed a frontier of defence against the Danmonii, who possessed the territory of the Carnabii (Devon and Cornwall), by the formation of these fortresses—viz. Hawksdown, on a bold eminence overlooking the village of Axmouth, and commanding the estuary of the Axe. Musbury, situated on a lofty eminence in that parish, is of an irregular form, and contains within its ramparts an area of six acres. Membury, of an irregular oblong shape, encloses an area of about three acres, on a commanding hill which forms part of Baalay Down. The other visible entrenchments connected with this range are, Lambert's Castle, Pillesdown-Pen, and Ham-hill. The Danmonii, about the same time, and for the same purpose, constructed a similar line of guardian fortresses—viz. Woodbury, Sidbury, Belbury, Blackberry, Hembury, Dumpdon, and Neroche.

SHUTE.

“ Here summer first unfolds her robes,
And here they longest tarry.”

THE domain of Shute, rendered an important feature in the topography of this part of the country, by the picturesque character of its scenery, the beauty of its situation, and the eminence of its ancient and modern proprietors, comprises nearly a square, of two miles a side, which is

bounded on the north-west by the great western road leading from London to Plymouth, three miles from Axminster, six from Honiton, and about four from Seaton, the supposed Moridunum of Antonius; in the archdeaconry and diocese of Exeter, deanry of Honiton, and hundred of Colyton. It contains, with its rural villages of Shute and Whitford, a population of 617 souls, who are nearly all employed in the cheerful business of husbandry. Our early historians have all made honourable mention of this interesting section of the large and influential county of Devon, and I approach it with feelings of the greatest respect and veneration. Leland says—"About a mile or I cam to Colington, I saw from an hille Shout, a right goodly manor place a mile of, on an hille side of the lord marquise of Dorset, and by it a goodly large parke." Risdon thus writes:—"Shute, anciently Le Sheete, is a chapel for ease to Colliton, albeit distinguished as a parish by itself, and took its first name of its situation in the declining of a hill. It hath been a very ancient dwelling of personages of good worth, and some knights sirnamed thereof—as Lucas de Sheete, Sir William and Sir Robert de Sheete, knights, in the days of Henry the third, from whom it came to Sir Thomas Pyne, and by his two daughters was divided between Bonville and Umfravile. But this barton was wholly Bonville's, who, in the time of Edward the third, enlarged his estate, and became very great, as well by his own procuring as by the augmentation of his wife's estate, being one of the heirs of Damarell, of Woodbury. He made his principal dwelling in this place, where he had his park for deer. These lands, by descent from Bonville, came to the duke of Suffolk, and by his attainder, to the crown, and were purchased by Sir William Petre,

who exchanged the house and park for other lands with the grandfather of Sir John Pole, bart." Sir John William Pole, bart., purchased the manor of Shute from Lord Petre in 1787; and at this time the whole parish, with but a trifling exception or two, belonged to Sir William Templar Pole, bart. Referring my readers to the English Baronetages, and Prince's Worthies of Devon, for the history of this illustrious house, I must here satisfy the propensity which I feel, with the following brief lineage of the family:—Arthur, Pole, esq., grandson of Sir John Pole, knight, of Pole, in Cheshire, and son of Sir John Pole, vice-admiral of the west of England, married Elizabeth, daughter and heiress of John Pole, esq., of Devon, and settled in this county; from whom descended Sir W. Pole, knight, of Colcombe Castle, in the parish of Colyton, who married Mary, eldest daughter and co-heiress of Sir W. Periham, knight, lord baron of the Exchequer, by whom he had six sons and five daughters; secondly, he married Jane, relict of Roger Howe, but had no issue: he died in 1635,* and was succeeded by his eldest son, Sir John William Pole, M.P. for Devon, who had been created a baronet on September 12, 1628. This gentleman married Elizabeth, daughter of Roger Howe, esq., by his father's second wife, and had (with other issue) Sir William, who married twice, and dying before his father, left three daughters. Sir John died in 1658, and was suc-

* The death of this celebrated historian and gentleman is thus recorded on the register of the church of Colyton:—"The Right Worshipful Sir William Pole, knight, departed out of this transitory life the 9th day of February, 1635, in the 74th year of his age, at his house, called Colcombe, in the parish of Colyton, and was buried in the aisle on the west side of the chancel of Colyton church, being the burial place of the family.

ceeded by his only surviving son, Sir Courtenay, M.P. of Honiton, and high sheriff of Devon in 1668: he married Ureth, daughter of — Shapcot, esq., of Shapcot-house, Somerset, and dying in 1695, was succeeded by his son, Sir John, M. P. for Devon, who married Anne, youngest daughter of Sir W. Morice, one of the principal secretaries of state to Charles the second, and had issue, William, his successor. John died unmarried. Carolus in holy orders, ancestor of Sir Charles Morice Pole, bart., of Attenham Abbey. Ureth married to Sir John Trevelyan, bart. Sir John died in 1707, and was succeeded by his eldest son, Sir William, of Shute, M.P. of Devon in 1712 and master of the household to Queen Anne: he married Miss Warry, and was succeeded, in 1741, by his only son, Sir John, who married Elizabeth, daughter and co-heiress of John Mills, esq., of Woodford, and was succeeded, in 1760, by his eldest son, Sir John William,* who married, Jan. 9, 1781, Anne, only

* A metropolitan print of March 1, 1754, gives the following notice of this gentleman:—"We hear from Colyton, in Devon, that there were the greatest rejoicing there on Friday last that ever was known in that county, when the Honourable Sir John Pole, bart., arrived at the age of twenty-one—a family which has flourished in that county for several hundred years. The day was ushered in with ringing of bells in all the parishes round; and there was as fine an ox as ever was seen roasted whole on Shute-hill, where were many hogsheads of beer and cider given to the population by the neighbouring gentlemen on that occasion; and it is computed that there were at least twelve thousand people on the celebration of this joyful day, and had it been known the week before, there would have been most of the nobility and gentry of the neighbouring counties, to which that honourable baronet is allied, but, notwithstanding, there were more than this grand old seat, called Shute, could well contain. The day was concluded with a grand ball, when most of the company danced all night. The next morning most of the inhabitants of Colyton, where the baronet has two fine manors, conducted him thither, to which place he was attended by horse and foot, preceded by French horns, and the militia, with colours flying, drums beating,

daughter of James Templer, esq., of Stover-house, in this county, by whom he had Sir William Templer Pole, D.C.L., born August 2, 1782, the seventh baronet and present representative of that illustrious line: he succeeded his father on November 30, 1799, and married, first, August 26, 1804, Sophia Anne, only daughter of George Templer, esq., of Shapwick-house, Somerset, by whom (who died March 17, 1808) he had issue, John George Pole, esq., born January 21, 1808, and married to Margaretta, daughter of H. Barton, esq., of Lincolnshire, by whom he has had issue, Luchisa Jane Maria, born in Italy, August 6, 1831; and secondly, August 30, 1810, to Charlotte, only daughter of John Fraser, esq., of Aberdeen, and neice of the late J. Farquhar, esq., of Fonthill Abbey, Wilts, by whom he has had issue, William Edmund, born July 3, 1816; Reginald Frederick, born October 20, 1818; Charlotte, born February 15, 1813; and Jane Maria, born November 3, 1814—married February 12, 1833, to E. W. H. Schenley, esq., her majesty's principal commissioner for the island of Cuba, and who, to the inexpressible grief, not only of

and the cannons firing as soon as he reached the town. He was attended by the Honourable Lady Pole—a lady who has supported the dignity of this ancient and loyal family for above twenty years' minority, and is the darling of all that have the happiness of her acquaintance. She is relict of the late Honourable Sir W. Pole, bart., who was knight of the shire of this county, and as most of his ancestors had been before him; and was master of the household to her late majesty, Queen Anne. Every thing was conducted with the greatest decorum. Every house in the town was illuminated, both on Friday and Saturday nights, in the most beautiful manner. The conduits run with punch and beer, given by their friends, and it is thought the rejoicings will not be finished for some time, as the greatest hopes of being blessed with the baronet, from the sweetness and affability of his temper, joined with the greatest genius that perhaps this age has produced. He has only one sister, who is endowed with all the amiable qualifications of her brother."

her distinguished parents, and near and dear connections, but to all who had cognoscence of her amiable character, died at Havannah, in May, and was buried in Shute church on June 25, 1837, leaving issue, Fanny English, born at Shute on March 19, 1834.

In describing a view up the vale from the shore at Seaton, the local muse has thus justly and eloquently sung :—

“ There, screen'd by hills and groves, with verdure green,
The mansion of the De la Poles is seen ;
A race renown'd thro' many a former age,
Whose deeds adorn the proud historic page ;
But now the honours of distinguish'd birth,
Illustrious virtue, patriotic worth,
Reflect their lustre with a milder grace,
On a descendant from the ancient race,
In whom the charms of polish'd life combine,
Manners polite, and heart the most benign.”

John George Pole, esq., eldest son, and consequently heir apparent, of the present honourable baronet, who resides, for the most part, in Italy, is held in high estimation, on account of his rich mental endowments and affable deportment, and his absence regretted by all classes of the community in the neighbourhood. The birth-day of this distinguished gentleman, on his becoming of age, on January 21, 1829, was celebrated in a very magnificent manner by the inhabitants of Shute, Colyton, and the adjoining parishes ; when two fat oxen were roasted whole, on a lofty eminence a little west of the town of Colyton, for the entertainment, which was lavishly profuse ; and the joyful multitude (some thousands) were animated and delighted by eloquent speeches from the object of their affection and admiration, and his venerable father. Many of the inhabitants still cherish the memory of this happy event, by retaining a drawing which was made

of the scene on Ox-hill, where the festal day was spent, and cups inscribed "John Pole, esq., Jan. 21, 1829."

Shute-hill, with Shute-house encompassed by an extensive and richly-wooded lawn on the south declivity of its ample base, as viewed from many parts of the neighbourhood, affords one of the most magnificent landscapes in the county: and a little to the westward, the Deer-park, occupying a large hill of one hundred and fifty acres, which rises from the centre of a beautiful vale in the form of a ship with the keel uppermost, and invested by the dark leafage of the oak, the chesnut, and the elm, the growth of ages, constitutes another impressive scene. Indeed, the whole south aspect of the parish, as seen in the distance, is one connected scene of bough and leaf, mingled with brown corn fields and green pastures, that ascend in light and shadowy succession, from the concentrating waters of the Axe, the Umborn, and the Coly.

" Here, rivers in the sea are lost;
There, mountains to the skies are tost:
Here, tumbling billows mark the coast
With surging foam;
There, distant stands Art's lofty boast,
The lordly dome."

Two roads intersect the parish, which branch off at a point near the town of Colyton, and form an equilateral triangle with the London line before mentioned; one of them terminating at the village of Kilmington, two miles west of Axminster, and the other at Shute Pillars, about six miles east of Honiton. In passing along these public avenues, which are shielded alike from the heat and the cold by deep banks literally covered with vegetable mosaic, and hedge-row ranges of umbrageous foresters, flowing into each

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other, we are entertained by the ever-opening views they afford of the contour of hills on either side, and the open sea in the distance. Cultivation having subjugated all waste, the entire domain of Shute presents a rich variety of arable and pasture grounds, on whose broad hedge-banks the wild strawberry, the *rosa rubiginosa*, the *rubus fruticosus*, the *arum maculatum*, the *caltha palustris*, the *digitalis purpurea*, the *fragaria vesca*, the *fumaria et claviculata capreolata*, the *primula et vulgaris veris*, with other plants and flowers innumerable, spring spontaneous; and in the park, where wild nature predominates, the *arum* unfolds its ample leaf, the wild rose its blushing wreath, the bright *stellaria* its starry shades, and the gay *veronica* its tinted charms.

The church, a small but handsome and well-proportioned fabric, is situated on a secluded spot at the north-west extremity of the lawn, and consists of a very neat chancel east of the tower, which opens into a portion of the north aisle, reserved for the burial place of the family of Pole, by two beautiful arches of the early pointed style; a tower, forty feet high, resting on pointed arches, and terminating in an embattled parapet; a nave, communicating with a north aisle by six handsome pointed arches; a south transept, containing the vestry room, and accommodations for the Pole family; and a south porch. A great portion of the building is in the style that prevailed about the commencement of the fourteenth century: some parts of it may be of an earlier date; but since that period it has been enlarged, and extensively repaired, particularly of late years, under the immediate auspices of Sir W. T. Pole, bart., to whose munificence and correct taste is the fabric indebted for its present handsome appearance.

The monuments in the chancel, and its lateral aisle, are uncommonly interesting, not only on account of the chaste and elegant character of their construction, but the literary beauty of their inscriptions, which record the history of the principal personages of the ancient and illustrious family of Pole. They are as follows:—

1. A flat stone for Penelope, second daughter of Sir Courtenay Pole, bart., and lady of the Honorable Francis Roberts, of Lanbydrick, Cornwall. Arms—Argent, three stars, pierced, of six points; on a chief of the first a mullet; impaling Pole.
2. South wall—a handsome tablet for Sir J. W. de la Pole, bart., lieutenant-colonel of the Royal East Devon Cavalry, Nov. 30, 1799, aged 42. Arms, of Pole with their supporters, crest and motto.
3. Same side—a tablet for Anne, lady of J. W. de la Pole, sixth baronet in descent, and sister of the Rev. John Templer, of Lindridge-house, Feb. 12, 1832, aged 74.
4. For James Templer, esq., March 4, 1782.
5. For John Geo. Pole, esq., Aug. 26, 1803, aged 16.
6. For C. B. Templer, esq., who perished in the *Halswell*, East Indiaman, Jan. 6, 1786.
7. For Elizabeth, lady of the Rev. Geo. Anstis, and sister of Sir J. W. de la Pole, bart., Aug. 11, 1780, aged 58. Arms on a lozenge—Argent between a cross, gules, three birds azure; impaling Pole.
8. The handsome statuary monument, erected in the centre of the enclosure, for Sir William Pole, bart., Dec. 31, 1741. He was master of the household to Queen Anne, and is here represented, at full length standing, in the court costume of her majesty's reign, with a rod in his right hand.
9. For Sophia Anne, only daughter of George Templer, esq., of Shapwick-house, Somerset, and first lady of the present baronet, who died March 17, 1808, in the 20th year of her age. These

tablets are all of white foreign marble, sweetly carved and elegantly designed. For Jane Maria, the lady of E. W. H. Schenley, esq., second daughter of Sir W. T. Pole, bart., who died at Havannah, and was interred in this church on June 25, 1837, no memorial has yet appeared; but doubtless we shall soon be gratified by a beautiful tablet in unison with the others, and bearing a durable record of the amiable and endearing virtues of that lamented lady.

On the chancel floor is a flat stone for Abigail Purse, Jan. 3, 1734; in the passage of the nave a similar stone for James Serle, July 20, 1797, aged 60; and on the south wall a small tablet for John Clapp, of Hampton, in this parish, July 6, 1788.

The living is a perpetual curacy annexed to the vicarage of Colyton. The fabric is dedicated to St. Andrew, and its registers begin with 1568. The communion plate, the gift of Sir W. T. Pole, bart., which cost one hundred guineas, is handsome. The great tithes of the parish are vested in the see of Exeter; and the Rev. R. Lewis, M.A., of Honiton, is the present officiating minister.

From the west, the lawn is entered by a handsome castellated gate, of great antiquity, which terminates, at the height of forty feet, in an embattled parapet, and is obscured from the public road by a deep frontage of avenue trees. Over the arch is the ancient coat of Pole cut in stone—Azure, semi-de-fleur-de-lis or, a lion rampant argent. Within this gate are the remains of the ancient hall, which, when entire, constituted a quadrangular building that occupied an acre; but in the year 1787, when materials were wanted for the new house, then in progress of being built, this once famous mansion, with the exception of the south wing, was demolished. The east angle

of the building, comprising the great kitchen, brew-house, and other inferior offices, surmounted by a fortress, and the south entrance, defended by a strong outer wall pierced with loop-holes, are still in a good state of preservation, and rendered deeply interesting, not more on account of the specimens which they afford of the durable and ingenious workmanship of an early age, than the associations with which this baronial edifice stands connected in the history of Devon. Passing eastward for about a quarter of a mile on the carriage road, which winds down the centre of a beautiful and extensive lawn, we reach the stately house of Shute. It was erected in 1787-8, under the direction of Sir J. W. de la Pole, bart., and is an elegant mansion, of quadrangular form, sixty-eight feet aside, connected with two wings by corridors. Its numerous suits of apartments are particularly capacious, and finished and furnished in a style of fashion and elegance which well accords with the external beauty of the edifice. The correct proportions of the north elevation are balanced by a portico over the entrance, supported by columns of the Doric order; the vestibula, fifteen feet wide, leads to a very grand geometrical stair of Portland stone; and the spacious library contains an excellent and extensive collection of books. From the south front of this scion of baronial greatness, we look down on the irriguous vales of the Axe and Coly, and behold a thousand bright rills and streamlets rushing from the abounding eminences to the estuary of the Axe: whilst away on the ocean numerous sails are discriminated as if sporting in the dim distance; and, occasionally, the huge armament of a man of war, or a squadron of the British fleet, are seen moving in majesty on the bosom of the deep. The situation is one of the

most beautiful imaginable. Like Mount Zion among the little hills of Jerusalem, Shute rises in august solemnity over the many eminences with which it is associated, and displaying its woodland crest, like a cloud in the horizon, receives the first mellowing glances of Aurora: and when—

“Slow sinks, more lovely ere his race be run,
Along Devon’s shores, the setting sun;
Not as in other climes, obscurely bright,
But one unclouded blaze of living light!
O’er the hush’d deep, the yellow beam he throws,
Gilds the green wave, that trembles as it glows;
And o’er the western hills to this fair pile,
The God of gladness shades his parting smile.”

COLYTON.

“Amidst luxuriant scenes, with conscious pride,
The dimpling Coly winds her silver tide.”

COLYTON, one of the most productive agricultural and dairy parishes on Devon’s leafy shore, is nearly in the form of a triangle, whose hypothenuse, running from east to west, is about six and a half miles in length, and its base from south to north three and a half, embracing an area of more than eight thousand acres. It is bounded on the north by Shute, north-east by Musbury, east by Axmouth, south by Seaton, Beer, and Branscombe, west by South-Leigh, Farway,* and

* Colyton and South-Leigh meet Farway within a house called Hornshay, belonging to E. M. Elton, esq., of Widworthy-Court, erected, it would appear, by its ancient proprietor, for the purpose of evading church offerings, parish offices, and assessments, and the authority of peace officers in the execution of limited warrants. In 1769, this house occasioned a dispute between Farway and South-Leigh, regarding the settlement of a man, who, by having

North-Leigh, and north-west by Offwell and Widworthy. At an early period it was thrown into nine tithings—viz. the Town, the Farwood, the Woodlands, the Minchingham, the Watchcombe, and the Colyford tithings: into the latter have lately merged the tithings of Stawford, Whitewell, and Gatcombe. The population of the parish in 1811 was 1774; in 1821, 1945; and in 1831, when the census was taken by order of government, this parish contained 2182 souls, of whom, in the same year, 104 were registered voters under the reform act.

It has long been considered that Devonshire, for fine scenery and natural beauty, excels any other county in Europe; and, by an analogy equally obvious, it may be said that Colyton possesses, on a modified scale, a rich combination of specimens of all the beautiful, sublime, and picturesque features of flowery Devonian. No one, with any feeling for the beauties of nature, can pass along the parish roads, without being delighted with the singularity and variety of the scenery which continues to excite attention: there is no monotony—the eye expatiates in the countless combinations of hill, vale, stream, river, wood, and rock, of which the local landscape is composed. But if curiosity leads him from the beaten path to some elevated spot—to the crest of some green eminence, always at hand, he will survey with unmingled delight and admiration the forms that wild nature assumes in the magnificent

lived as a servant in it, became chargeable as a pauper. The part of the house standing in Colyton consisting only of a dairy, that parish was considered clear of the charge; and at quarter sessions, when the case was tried, the magistrates decided that the pauper belonged to that parish in which his head rested when in bed; and it being found that his head and part of his body had lain in Farway, that parish had to take the poor man.

prospect. The town occupies a fine inland position on the river Coly, two and a half miles from the beautiful beach of Seaton, and about the same distance from the port of Axmouth, five from Axminster, seven from Honiton, nine from Sidmouth, and twenty-four from Exeter. In its principal street, which is clean and capacious, are situated some good shops, the market-house, the parish free school, and the two inns—the Dolphin Inn, or Pole's Arms, conducted by Mr. James Lyle White, and the Commercial Hotel, by its proprietor, Mr. James Callander. These inns are commodious and highly respectable; and it is not at all surprising to see so many commercial gentlemen hastening from distant towns to Colyton, where, in addition to the agreeable of the place, the luxuries and condiments of the palate at a cheap rate, they enjoy the redeeming influence in the sea breezes full and fresh from the ocean. This part of the town is not a little indebted, for its present appearance, to a fire which occurred on April 12, 1834. It broke out at noon in an old thatched house adjoining the parish school, and such was the rapidity of the devouring element, that, before it could be arrested in its progress, fifteen dwelling-houses were totally destroyed, and many others injured. The owners, however, of the property consumed, being persons in good circumstances, and partly insured, were not, in a pecuniary sense, much affected by the catastrophe; and substantial new houses, which have been raised on the old foundations, show, that, however awful the visitation appeared on that terrible day, in a public point of view it was a blessing in disguise. The Church-house, which has from time immemorial been appropriated for the accommodation of the parish free school, which also suffered

severely in the before-mentioned fire, appears to have been erected about the beginning of the fifteenth century, and enlarged in 1612. Having got into a dilapidated state, it was in 1834 extensively repaired, and additional offices attached to it. The school is respectably endowed.

Colyton Great-house, a decayed seat of ancient respectability, is entered from Cockoo-street, by an elliptical archway, on which the tenacious ivy has woven its delicious foliage, as if anxious to perpetuate the antiquity of the place, by clasping together the span-mouldings, now yielding to the energy of time, and of embalming them in verdure. All that now remains of this once baronial edifice are the inferior offices, and some mouldering walls, which long since were converted into a farmstead. It is, however, with seeming reluctance that these relics of the noble hall resign the stern dignity of their ancient character to the contumelious efficacy of time. For many successive generations this was the chief seat of the once opulent family of Yonge; but, in 1790, it, with the lands thereunto annexed, and Summerlas, Catchaine, the Hams, and Stawford-tenement, in Colyton, were, by Sir George Yonge, exchanged for lands in the parish of Talaton, with Sir J. W. de la Pole, bart.

Colyton-Grove, the residence of Capt. Liddon, R.N., was the seat of the ancient family of Sampson, who, as their monuments in the parish church testify, flourished here for many generations. John Sampson, esq., is the present inheritor of this property; and his brother Samuel, a young gentleman of good promise, is the heir apparent. Honour and generosity were the distinguishing characteristics of the Sampson family, and for these virtues they are remembered, and their loss to Colyton regretted. The house is a well-built

fabric, in the cottage style of the sixteenth century. It fronts the sweet south, and in that direction opens on gay ascending grounds, which are not a little ornamented by a handsome grove of French-nut, walnut, and other avenue trees. The grove, for many of its enrichments, are indebted to Capt. Liddon.*

The Unitarian chapel, which was originally what is denominated in this country a Presbyterian meeting, is a respectable thatched edifice, in length sixty feet, and in breadth thirty-five. The interior is neatly furnished with pews for two hundred sitters, including a gallery at the west end, in which is an organ. On the south wall is a marble tablet to the memory of the Rev. J. Cornish, who died October 9, 1823, after having served this place as minister for the long period of fifty years. In the adjoining obituary stands a head-stone for Mr. Philip Moore, who died March 28, 1832, aged 78. And a burial-place, enclosed with an iron rail, belonging to Lieut. G. E. Powell, R.N., in which stands a handsome memorial for Mr. G. E. Powell, only son of the above, who, young, beautiful, and accomplished, was numbered among the angels at the early age of sixteen, on July 17, 1836. Dr. Manton officiated here for some time subsequent to 1640; and the Rev. John Wilkins, a vicar of Colyton, being unable to comply with the terms of the act of uniformity, was ejected from the church in 1662, but continued to preach here as

* This gentleman, as is well known, was the colleague of the celebrated Capt. Parry, and commanded the Griper, in the expedition to discover a north-west passage from the Atlantic to the Pacific ocean, in 1819; the result of which proves highly important in the geographical researches of this and every other country. See a history of the expedition, a work of great merit and interest, by Capt. Parry.

a nonconformist until his death, in 1667. Mr. Gill, a minister ejected from Shute, at the same time, and for the same reason, assisted in the ministrations of this place. The pastors of this chapel have been appointed by the congregation as follows:—J. Wilkins, 1662; J. Gill, 1667; J. Kerridge, M.A., 1689; J. Rosewell, 1705; S. Short, 1707; W. Yonatt, 1715; S. Salter, 1745; J. Toulmain, LL.D., 1761; M. Anstis, 1766; J. Cornish, 1772; G. Skey, 1824; G. F. Matthew, 1826; J. Smith (the poet), 1830; the Rev. J. Taplin, the present officiating minister, 1834.

The Independent chapel was erected in 1814, and enlarged in 1831. It is a neat edifice, forty-five feet long by twenty-five wide, and contains respectable accommodations for three hundred sitters. The front entrance and windows, being crowned with circular arches, in imitation of the Saxon style of architecture, the fabric, with the residence of the Rev. J. Pady, the present minister, adjoining, give a pleasing finish to the street in which they stand.

Colyton-house, approached by a handsome gate from Vicar-street, has been the temporary residence of several families of distinction. The relict of the Rev. G. Anstis, a vicar of Colyton, lived here until her death, in 1780, when this property fell to her nephew, Sir J. W. Pole, bart., of Shute, who, having repaired the main building, and added to it a new wing, made it the place of his residence in 1787, during the demolition of the old hall of Shute, and the completion of the new house. In 1800, Sir John sold this property to Capt. Piper, who dying in 1816, his relict disposed of it to J. M. How, esq., whose executors sold it to W. Payne, esq., in 1821, who greatly improved the property; but this gentleman leaving the neighbourhood in 1827, he sold it to F.

H. N. Drake, esq.; and at this time it belongs to Miss Shiles, of Axminster, as mortgagee in possession.

Colyton Cottage, the residence of Lieut. G. E. Powell, R.N., possesses spacious grounds, behind which are tastefully laid out, and richly adorned by a handsome summer house, a romantic grot, which is inlaid with a chaste variety of foreign and English gems and fossils, winding walks, screened by fruit trees and laurel hedges, with a fish-pond in the centre. The other good houses in and about Colyton are as follows:—Lebanon-house, the residence of John Snook, gent. Berry-house, the residence of George Gillet, esq., surgeon (purchased from Mrs. Newbury, in 1837). The villa of Charles Northam, gent. Rose Cottage, the residence of Mrs. Anning. The Happy Retreat, the residence of F. W. Kingdom, esq., solicitor. Oroolong-house, the residence of R. Ocock, esq., solicitor. The residence of T. Beed, gent. Willhayne-house, the property and pleasant residence of Mrs. Spiller. The residence of Capt. Smith, of the Royal Dragoons, Ridgeway. The residence of Capt. Coles, Ridgeway.

The vicarage-house. This interesting fabric, in which a succession of learned men have resided for a period of more than three hundred years, is one of the most perfect architectural specimens of antiquity in this place. It stands on a lawn adjoining Colyton-house, and was erected by the Rev. Thomas Brerewood, the last canon, in 1522, but since that period has been augmented and extensively repaired, by subsequent incumbents. At this time, a plain, but elegant, simplicity is the prevailing characteristic of this venerable structure and its accompaniments. But, with some inconsiderable excep-

tions, all its modern additions and renewals harmonize with the antique features of the original building. Its interior exhibits none of those staring embellishments which we are accustomed to meet with in what are denominated "houses of fashion;" but every beneficial decoration is good and respectable, and an air of neatness and utility predominates. In the parlour are two ancient oak side-boards, which display a profusion of elaborate carved work; and on the walls are hung the following pictures:—1. "Raphael Santios pina in ædibus vaticanis." 2. The Watering-place, from an original by Rubens. 3. Roman edifices and ruins, from a picture by Claude Loraine. In the window are the arms of Bishop Voysey, who was appointed to preside over the diocese in 1520—Argent, on a cross sable, a bull's head couped, between four doves of the field; on a chief azure, a cross ilury, between two roses or; and a figure of St. Andrew, the tutelar saint of the church, standing before his cross, with a label over his head bearing this inscription—"Sancte Andrea ora pro nobis." In the drawing-room is a select library; and on the walls, among other pieces, I observed seven of the cartoons of Raphael, by celebrated masters. Over the entrance porch are, cut in stone, the arms of Voysey, and T. B., the initials of Canon Brerewood, surmounted by a canonical cap, and this inscription—"Peditatis totum, meditatio totum, 1529." The Rev. Frederick Barnes, D.D., canon of Christ's Church, Oxford, and the highly esteemed vicar of Colyton and its dependent chapelries of Shute and Monkton, occasionally resides here. The Poet of the Beach, in reference to this gentleman, has thus, with much propriety and felicity, sung:—

"There walks, surrounded by his filial band,
 A tall and stately figure o'er the strand;
 In him a prebend—parish priest—you see,
 With college honours grac'd, and high degree;
 Yet in his looks you view no haughty pride,
 But dignity with cheerfulness allied:
 Some months collegiate duties claim his time,
 Where Oxford lifts to heav'n her towers sublime;
 The rest, the object of his pious cares,
 His flock belov'd, and not far distant, shares.
 His lib'ral sentiments, and manners bland,
 Affection gain, yet reverence command;
 His people hear his voice, with joy attend,
 And in the pastor view the father, friend;
 While doctrines solid, rational, and plain,
 By him enforc'd, a double influence gain.
 Proceed, blest man! still fill thy double sphere,
 By Oxford priz'd, to Colyton most dear;
 Alternate duties are by heav'n design'd
 To give superior vigour to the mind;
 Such worth, one parish scarcely should confine;
 At Oxford now in learned circles shine;
 Then to religion's everlasting rock,
 With past'ral crook, conduct thy rural flock,
 And in yon vale enjoy retirement's charms,
 Embosom'd deep 'midst orchards, cots, and farms.
 Would some superior, gifted bard, had drawn
 Worth which might dignify the prelate's lawn;
 Virtues like thine, benignant as the dews,
 Deserve the tribute of a Goldsmith's muse."

COLYTON CHURCH.

Thus speak the heathen:—"How shall man
 The power supreme adore?
 With what accepted off'rings come,
 His mercy to implore?
 Shall clouds of incense to the skies
 With grateful odour speed?
 Or victims from a thousand hills
 Upon his altar bleed?"
 No—God rejects the bloody rites
 Which blindfold zeal began;
 His oracles of truth proclaim
 The message brought to man.

MICAH, ch. vi, ver. 6. 9.

We have nothing in England, of a national character, either ancient or modern, that creates

a finer spell in the moral and religious sentiments of mankind, than the parochial churches of the country. These venerable structures, with but few exceptions, hoary with time, and exhibiting symptoms of national old age, rear their embattled towers, and tall spires, from every village and town throughout our beautiful and sublime land; and when we, and the enlightened age in which it is our happiness to live, shall have passed into that oblivion which encircles the last retreat of humanity, these justly admired and fondly cherished symbols of national greatness and wisdom shall continue to mark the progressive dominion of Christianity.

The churches erected during the early progress of Christianity in this country, having excited the cupidity of the Danish invaders, had nearly all disappeared previous to the Norman conquest. A few Saxon or Norman temples still remain: they are low and irregular in their construction; their pillars round and massive, as in the church of Farway; their arches circular, and often decorated with rude figures; their windows small; and their substantial square towers present ranges of circular arches. At the close of the eleventh century the pointed arch, which led to a new, enlarged, and more beautiful style of ecclesiastical architecture, was adopted. The characteristics of the churches of the twelfth and thirteenth centuries are the lancet window, the narrow nave, a deficiency of ornament, and a severe chastened style through the whole building. A great proportion of our present churches were either rebuilt or extensively repaired during the fourteenth and fifteenth centuries. The genius of William Wykeham, supported by the patronage of the third Edward, and a concurrent spirit which at that period prevailed among the

clergy, raised churches for the worship of God on a scale of magnificence which no subsequent age, even with all the assistance of modern art and science, has been able to rival. They were built for eternity, and have nobly withstood the fury of the elements, the revolutions of opinions, and the ruthless violations of men. These are marked by a lofty nave, with side aisles, and transept; and, still more than all, by the obtuse arch, and large window, divided by numerous mullions, and frequently emblazoned with stained glass. The pointed style, in which the elegant simplicity of former styles was happily blended, reached the zenith of its beauty and perfection in the reign of the fifth Henry; and during the reign of the next Henry, the florid, or perpendicular, style was introduced, and prevailed in all its gorgeous variations up to the final dissolution of religious houses by Henry the eighth. This latter class of churches are distinguished by rich tabernacle work; pendant roofs; screens, on which are lavished exquisite foliage and elaborate carved tracery; flying buttresses, pinnacles, crotchets, and finals; niches over the doors and windows, often filled with statues, and a profusion of heraldic ornaments, illustrating the shrines and monuments of prelates and warriors. Of this last description is the church of Colyton, the subject of my present disquisition. It presents a most respectable exterior, with a handsome tower rising from its centre to the height of ninety-five feet. The tower consists of two parts—a square body terminating in battlements and Gothic figure-heads, and an octagonal continuation supported by flying buttresses springing from handsome pinnacles, and is crowned with an embattled parapet and finals. The former, with the chancel and its lateral approaches, I

suspect constituted the original church, and may, with safety, be assigned to the fourteenth century; and the latter to have been added when the fabric was enlarged, about the middle of the fifteenth century, when it was extended to its present length, one hundred and twenty feet, with parallel aisles, and a cross transept, which gave the edifice a cruciform character. In 1769 the south aisle was rebuilt; and in 1818, when the entire fabric underwent a reparation, the corresponding aisle on the other side was also renewed on an enlarged scale, so that the projecting transept, on either side, was lost by the extension of the aisles, and consequently the proportional beauty of the ancient model destroyed. In the restoration of these aisles, pointed windows, of the plain florid style, were introduced, which, however elegant, do not accord with those of the chancel and its approaches. But this dissimilarity is only trifling, when compared with the gross incongruity exhibited in the construction of the new arches communicating with the nave, which consists of columns ornamented with round perpendicular moulding to the height of about eleven diameters, square capitals, and circular arches, with dissimilar mouldings; whereas the columns ought to be at least two diameters shorter, the capitals round, and the arches pointed, with a uniform moulding.

On entering the fabric by the chancel door, the array of well-proportioned arches, with their richly-foliaged capitals, the beautiful screen and magnificent monuments of the Pole dormitory, and the variegated eastern window, excite immediate attention. This window is thrown into five lancet-headed compartments, which are crowned with a circular arch. It is filled up with stained glass, exhibiting a variety of quatre and cinque

foils, roses, and saltiers ; and some heraldic ornaments—viz. 1. Yonge, ermine, on a bend cotized, sable, three griffins' heads erased or. 2. Quarterly, first and fourth, paley of six or and azure. 3. Courtenay, or, three toreauxes, a label of three points azure. 4. Courtenay, impaling Strode, argent, a chevron between three conies sable. 5. Or, a chevron between three eagles displayed vert ; impaling Fishacre, sable, three fishes hauriant argent. In the centre are the arms of England, and the cross of Christ, surrounded by a beautiful ancient painting of the entombment of our blessed Redeemer, accompanied with some of the instruments and emblems of the crucifixion. On the glass, across the bottom, is this memorandum—"In honorem Dei, et domini nostri Jesu Christi, ecclesia prius ancta et restaurata fenestram hanc, dat dicat Fredericus Barnes, S. T. P. vicarius, A.D. 1829."

The great western window, about thirty feet high by twenty in width, consists of two transoms, each thrown into nine compartments, and a fine ramified head. This beautiful window, with the west entrance to the church in the centre of its base transom, are in the florid or perpendicular style of architecture ; and previous to 1769 all its compartments terminated in quatre foil heads ; but in that year, when the destroyer commenced his work, the whole of that beautiful ancient tracery, with the exception of the base transom, was cut away as superfluous.

On a flat stone in the passage of the south aisle is this inscription :—"Here lies John Trelhelke, ano. dom. 1514." In the robing-room, on a flat stone—"Here lies John Wilkins, minister of this place from Sep. 19, 1647, vntil 24th of Aug. 1667.

Svch pillars layd aside,
 How can the chvrch abide?
 He left his pvlpit, he
 In Patmos God to see.
 This shining light can have
 No place to preach bvts grave.
 Left wife, 2 sonnes, & 4 davghters.
 Mary layd here 8 wieks after."

On the tower, over the baptismal font, is a small tablet, erected by W. Walrond, esq., of Bradfield, for his tutor, Joseph Chapman, M.A., of Cornwall, who died July 8, 1663. Over the tablet are the arms of Chapman—Or, on a chevron gules, three trefoils slipt, of the field; and at the bottom are those of Walrond—Argent, three bulls' heads caboshed sable. Over the south chancel door, a tablet, erected by Sir J. W. de la Pole, bart., for John Paumier, esq., March 3, 1798. Arms—Azure, on a chevron between two roses in chief, and a pomegranate in base, two locks of hair sable. Under the arch of the tower, a flat stone for the family of Parsons, 1653; and four tablets—1. For Capt. J. Piper, father of Major Piper, of the Royal Engineers, June 17, 1801. 2. For Capt. J. Batut, Jan. 2, 1788. 3. For Elizabeth Bours, Feb. 27, 1806. 4. For J. Samson, esq., barrister, Dec. 18, 1814, aged 59. Arms—Or, a cross moline, sable. North aisle—1. A tablet for Henry Wilson, esq., who was, when commander of the East India Company's packet, the Antelope, wrecked on the Pellew Isles, in August, 1783: he died May 11, 1810. 2. A tablet for P. Mitchell, June 26, 1800; and his wife, Jan. 18, 1814. Against the north side of the tower are the monuments of the family of Sampson. 1. John Sampson, esq., July 18, 1780, aged 87; his wife, Mary, Feb. 5, 1764, aged 74; Anne, their daughter, Oct. 7, 1749; and S. Sampson, esq., Dec. 11, 1788, aged 62. Arms—Or,

a cross moline, azure ; impaling, argent, two bars gules ; on a chief of the last, three mullets of the field. 2. For Mary Callard, daughter of J. Sampson, esq., March 11, 1803, aged 82. Arms—a cross patonee gules, within a bardure sable. 3. John Sampson, March 12, 1792, aged 14 ; and J. Sampson, esq., March 17, 1796, aged 76. 4. For J. Sampson, esq., born April 21, 1642, and died Nov. 10, 1700. Arms—Azure, a cross moline argent ; impaling azure, a pallet crenelle argent. In the east end of the north aisle is the burial-place of the ancient family of Yonge, enclosed by a handsome screen of Beer stone, with an enriched cornice, surmounted by pyramidical finials, and the family arms—Ermine, on a bend cotized sable, three griffins' heads erased or. Its interior is now used as a vestry-room. In the chancel—1. The interesting monument of Margaret Courtenay, grand-daughter of Edward the fourth, who died at Colcombe Castle in her infancy. In a niche, under a cornice of quatre-foils and some remains of tabernacle work, is the recumbent figure of a child, in stone, with a dog or lion at her feet, and three shields—1. Courtenay, impaling, quarterly France and England. 2. Courtenay alone. 3. Quarterly, France and England alone. This monument, after being despoiled of its beautiful canopy of tabernacle work, and otherwise mutilated, in its original place in the north aisle, was removed to its present station, and repaired at the expence of Dr. Barnes. 2. A tablet for the Rev. G. Rhodes, a vicar of Colyton, March 15, 1798. 3. A handsome Corinthian monument for W. Drake, of Yarbury, March 6, 1680, illustrated by three figures in relief kneeling, and a shield—within a bordure engrailed sable three lions rampant gules ; impaling azure, fretty or. On the cornice

are the arms of the Drake family, of Ash—Argent, a wivern gules; impaling, argent, three torteauxes, a chief gules. In front of the communion rails are two flat stones—1. For a Marwood—inscription defaced. Arms—A chevron between three goats' heads erased; impaling, a chevron between three swans. 2. For Elizabeth Long, April 10, 1624. Arms—A griffin segreant, between four cross crosslets; impaling, a chevron engrailed, between three garbs, with a mullet for difference. On the south side of the altar, inclosed by a beautiful ancient stone screen of open tracery, bearing on its front the initials of Canon Brerewood, and crowned with a handsomely-enriched cornice, are some elegant monuments of the family of Pole, of the adjoining parish of Shute—viz. 1. A cenotaph for Sir W. Pole, bart., who died at Shute, Dec. 31, 1741, aged 63. 2. A cenotaph for Mrs. Grace Pole, wife of W. Pole, esq., who was buried in the church of Charminster; and her two sons, John and William. Arms—Pole; impaling, argent, three Poles on the dexter side of the escutcheon sable, for Trenchard. 3. A handsome perpendicular monument for Mary, the lady of Sir W. Pole, knight, of Shute, and eldest daughter of Sir W. Periham, knight, who was chief baron of the Exchequer: she died May 2, 1605, aged 38. Arms—1. Azure, semee of fleurs-de-lis or, a lion rampant argent, for Pole. 2. Gules, a chevron engrailed between three leopards' faces or, for Periham. 3. Pole, impaling, Periham as before. 4. In a lozenge, quarterly, 1st and 4th, Periham; 2d, argent, a chevron azure between three pears pendant gules, for a branch of Periham; and 3d, argent, two bars wavy between three billets sable. 4. A raised tomb, in the centre of the area, for W. Pole, esq., of Shute, who died Aug. 15, 1587, aged 72. On

the panels of the tomb are eight shields, charged with the arms of Pole, Drake, and Pole, impaling Tytherleigh, Code, Manwaring, Maction, Pole, of Pole, in the county of Chester, and Popham. Against the wall, under a canopy supported by Doric columns, at the head of this tomb, is a genealogical shield, with the family crest—on a wreath, a lion's paw erect gules, armed or; and the motto, "Pollet vertus." The shield bears the arms of Pole, quartering twelve ancient family coats; among which are those of Nonant, baron of Totnes, Keppel, Bonville, De Esse or Ash, and De la Ford. On the slab is a cross shield, exhibiting the arms of Pole quarterly, with those of eleven family connections. 5. A handsome perpendicular monument for Katharine, daughter of A. Popham, esq., and sister of Sir J. Popham, lord chief justice of England, lady of W. Pole, esq., who died Oct. 28, 1588. Arms—Eight shields charged with the coats of Pole and Popham; and the latter impaling those of four other families. 6. A splendid Corinthian monument, composed of a rectangular base, three feet deep, eight long, and four wide, on whose entablature rest the effigies, in stone, and as large as life, of Lady Elizabeth, richly attired, and her husband, Sir John Pole, of Shute, bart. On the front of the base is this inscription:—"Hec jacet Elizabetha uxor Johannis Pole, baronetti, et unica Rog. Howe, mercatoris Londonensis filia. Obijt 16 die Ap. 1628. Tres filios totidemque filias vivent. Reliquit duobus insuper, & filio, & filia defunctis." These effigies are surmounted by an elegant canopy, which terminates, at the height of fifteen feet, in a gorgeous array of ornamental statuary and armorial bearings; and on its front the following classical effusion:—

“ *Seu mater seu nata fuit seu nupta requiris
 Omnes et fœlix omnibus vita fuit.
 Et natis pia mater erat pia filia matri
 Sponsa virum redamans et redamata viro
 Hac una amissa vobis tria damna sequuntur
 His tribus amissis, perdidit illa nihil
 Quam rapit a Polo mors importuna caduco
 Rursus ad æthereum transtulat illa Polum.*

In memoriam matris suæ posuit hac Guliel. Pole primo-genitus.” Arms—On six shields are exhibited the coats of Pole and How, with those of the alliances of the latter family.*

In the tower are six deep-toned bells, the largest of which, weighing twenty-six cwt., was had new in 1837, but on it is retained the inscription of its predecessor—“ *Sum vitæ, mortis, temporis atque tuba.*† A.D. 1711.” The parochial registers, the best written that I have had the honour of perusing, are perfect from 1538. They were politely shown to me by the Rev. S. H. Peppin, the present vicar of Branscombe—a gentleman who will be long remembered here, having served the parish as a faithful curate for the long period of twenty-seven years. Colyton, with its subordinate chapelries of Shute and Monkton, is a peculiar of the dean and chapter of Exeter—first-fruits, £40. 10s. 10d., and yearly tenths, £4. 1s. 1d. The church of Colyton is dedicated to St. Andrew; and its vicars, since the valuation of Henry the eighth, have been

* A copy of the burial entries of the family of Pole, extracted from the register of the church of Colyton:—Elizabeth Pole, relict of John Pole, esq., of Colcombe Castle, 1628. John Pole, son of William Pole, esq., 1635. Sir William Pole, knight, 1635. John Pole, son of Sir John Pole, bart., 1636. William Pole, son of William Pole, esq., 1638. Sir William Pole, knight, son of Sir John Pole, knight and baronet, 1648. Courtenay Pole, esq., son of Courtenay Pole, esq., 1656. Sir John Pole, bart., who died at Bromley St. Leonard's, in the county of Middlesex, on April 16, and was buried here July 18, 1658.

† I am the herald of life, death, and time.

appointed as follows:—Thomas Brerewood continued in 1587; G. Arthur, 1569; R. Trebis, 1592; J. Edes, 1610; W. Hull, 1611; R. Hutchinson, 1627; T. Collyns, 1637; J. Wilkins, 1647; T. Tanner, 1665; R. Simson, 1676; W. Salter, 1685; P. Burnaford, 1728; J. Fisher, 1734; G. Anstis, 1737; H. Barton, 1760; W. Hatherly, 1763; G. Rhodes, 1782; G. Nutcom, —; R. Buller, —; Frederick Barnes, D.D., 1808. The Rev. A. Dean is the present curate.

The Sunday School-house. Early in the spring of 1835 the necessity of erecting a parochial edifice, for the accommodation of the Sunday schools, was suggested by the Rev. Dr. Barnes, whose proposition being entertained and highly appreciated by the parishioners and gentry of the neighbourhood, the munificent and public-spirited Sir W. T. Pole, bart., of Shute, at once offered to give the whole of the timber requisite for the completion of this beneficent object; and a subscription list, opening with the auspicious name of the benevolent "Lady Pole, forty guineas," readily amounted to the sum of £260. 13s., which being aided by a grant from the National School Society of £92, and £15 from the funds of the school, the committee were enabled to prosecute the noble object, and to send up their last stone with joy. The two schools were opened on Sept. 5, 1836, when an entertainment of tea and cake was provided for the children and the friends of the institution, over which Sir W. T. Pole and his amiable lady presided, and by their presence and condescending urbanity gave a pleasing interest to the happy scene.

Charities. The chamber of Colyton was established by the royal charter of Henry the eighth, in the last year of his reign; whose son, Edward the fifth, confirmed it by a deed of enfeoffment,

which empowered the trustees to collect the tolls of three weekly markets, and two annual fairs, to be held yearly on the 14th of October and the 1st of May. The other deeds in the possession of the present trustees are as follows:—1. Dated April 17, fourth and fifth of Philip and Mary. 2. Dated March 2, twenty-fifth and forty-second of Elizabeth. 3. Dated Feb. 16, 1576. 4. Dated Feb. 23, 1664. 5. Dated March 25, 1812. The whole of the property, which is considerable, conveyed by these documents, is now under the control of the feoffees and twenty men of Colyton, for certain charitable purposes therein mentioned.

T. Holmes, by will, dated June 8, 1670, gave £3 yearly, chargeable out of Rowlandsham Meadow, now the property of Capt. Liddon, to the poor of Colyton, to be given them in bread, at Christmas, by the minister and churchwardens; and J. Greg, in 1812, gave, by will, £100 in the three per cents. for the same purpose. The Rev. James How, by will, dated October 1, 1816, gave £200 stock, towards the support of a Sunday school in Colyton.

Colyton, at the conquest, was parcel of the king's demesne, which the conqueror gave to R. de Mount Chardon; but having returned to the crown, Henry the second gave it, with the manor of Whitford, to Sir A. Dunstanville, whose son, with the consent of King John, gave it to Sir T. Bassett, his nephew. From the Bassett family these manors descended to Hugh Courtenay, earl of Devon, who built Colcombe Castle, which stands on both manors. By the attainder of Henry Courtenay, in 1538, this property fell again to the crown, but was restored to Edward, the last earl but two, by Queen Mary, whose heirs general, in 1787, sold both manors to Sir John W. Pole, bart., and at this time they, and

more than three fourths of the parish of Colyton, belong to the present justly admired and highly esteemed representative of that ancient family.

Tudhays, or Minchenholm, belonged to the priory of Polsloe, and at the resumption was purchased from the crown by J. Drake, esq., of Ash, in the parish of Musbury, whose grandson sold it to the tenants and others.

Whitewell was, in 1296, held by Sir A. Loterel, from whom it went to the earl of Devon; but having escheated to the crown by the attainder of the Marquis in 1538, it was granted to J. Willoughby, esq.; and, in 1790, was purchased from Sir John Trevelyan by Sir J. W. Pole, bart.

Sparkheyes* from the Bittlesgate family went, by purchase, to Lord Bonville, and so descended to Lord Petre, from whom it was purchased by Sir J. W. de la Pole, bart.

Yarbury. The Bawceyn family flourished here soon after the conquest—three of whom, at least, were knights. From them it came to the Coplestone family, who sold it to Sir William Pole, bart.; and from that gentleman it was purchased by Drake, of Ash; and the creditors of F. H. A. Drake, esq., sold it, with Huborn, in this parish, to — Sheriff, esq.

Farwood, anciently Ferend. Godrid held half a rod of land here, which the conqueror gave to W. Chicure, a Norman. In King John's reign, H. Tracey, baron of Barnstaple, gave land here to the abbey of Quarard, founded by Rivers, earl of Devon, "in perpetuum eleemosynam." After the surrender, it was purchased by George Haydon, esq. In 1773 it became, by purchase, the

* On Oct. 16, 1381, Bishop Brantyngham licenced the chapels of T. Bittlesgate and his wife Jane, *infra moneira sua de Kyngeston infra parochiam de Otry scæ manœ et de Sparkeye, infra paroch de Coleton.*

property of Sir J. Davie, in whom it continues. The ancient house of Haydon I found in a good state of repair, and on one of its chimnies observed the date 1613. In the parlour window is a genealogical shield of Haydon, quarterly of six—1. Argent, three bar gemel azure, on a chief gules, a bar-rulet dancettee or, for Haydon. 2. Ermine, three battle-axes gules. 3. Argent, two chevrons gules. 4. Ermine, a cross gules. 5. Argent, two chevrons gules, with a crescent for difference. 6. Argent, ten torteauxes, and the crest—a lion vulning a bull.

Farwood being parcel of the dutchy of Lancaster, its inhabitants are, by royal charter, freed from arrest in all civil matters, and their goods from attachment, except at the suit of the crown. They also, by the same charter (now in force), stand discharged from the payment of all "tollage" in the fairs and markets throughout the kingdom of England.

Gatcombe continued in the family of Helion from the conquest until about the close of the reign of the third Henry, when it came to the family of Prouse; and in the time of the second Richard it was in the Stowford family, by whom it was retained until the heiress of R. Stowford brought it to Sir T. Wise, who in 1773 sold it to the tenants. It now stands divided in three parts—viz. Higher Gatcombe, the property of Lord Rolle; Lower Gatcombe, the property and residence of Mr. T. Salter, who carries on the lime-burning to a very considerable extent; and Little Gateombe, which was purchased by the late Mr. Newberry, of Screwell, and is now vested in his relict and family,

Stowford, long in a family of that name, came to J. Walrond by Joan, daughter of J. Stowford, in the time of Edward the second.

From Walrond, it was purchased by Sir John Pole, bart., who sold it to a Marwood; and a few years ago E. M. Elton, esq., sold it to Mr. Lovelidge, of Chardstock, Somerset, its present holder.

Hethen, or Heathayne, for some descents in Frenchenay, the last Elizabeth of whom brought to Strode, from whom it went to D. Pasmere, esq., who sold it to Sir J. W. Pole, bart.

Brocombe, or Borcombe, was for some generations in the De la Pomeroy family; and after them was successively held by R. Branscombe, Lord Bonville, and the family of How. Miss How, daughter of the Rev. S. How, by her marriage, brought this land to Capt. Probey, of the Ryals, Seaton, its present proprietor.

Colcombe Castle. This interesting remnant of departed glory exhibits a solemn spectacle of broken walls, in a retired nook of the combe of Coly. Hugh Courtenay, who succeeded his father as baron of Okehampton in 1273, resided here in a house which he had built. Subsequent earls enlarged the original edifice; and in 1497 William Courtenay began with good spirit to extend and adorn the fabric, by giving it a castellated form; but owing to his death, on June 9, 1511, and the attainder of his son Henry, who was beheaded on Tower-hill on January 9, 1538, the design was not then carried into full effect; but Sir William Pole, knight, the historian, who was treasurer of the Inner Temple, purchased this property, repaired the castle, and made it the place of his residence. This gentleman, after his retirement from public life, became an ornament to this his native county, as a magistrate, and a treasurer of the antiquities of Devon. In the last of Elizabeth, and first year of James, he was high sheriff of Devon; but, alas! as human happiness is seldom of long duration, death, that

ultima linea rerum, in 1635, removed him from the honours of time, which he had so justly acquired, and a flat stone in the church of Colyton is the only memorial that distinguishes the spot where this celebrated gentleman, and immortal historian, rests on the lap of earth.

And spare the fame that such memorials give;
Enshrin'd in his own works, the man shall live.

After the removal of the family of Pole to Shute, the castle was neglected, and left to the triumphant touches of time, which have reduced it to a picturesque ruin, on whose mouldering members the grateful ivy has wreathed its umbrageous robe, for the protection of the bat and the owl, its romantic inhabitants. The chantry roll of 1547 notices a free chapel at Colcombe, for divine worship on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays, which was founded by an earl of Devon, and endowed with land in the parish then valued at £6. 12s. 4d. per annum. This building is supposed by some persons in the locality to be a ruined abbey; but, from its history, it is clear that no religious community ever resided here.

Colyford. This sweet and healthy village, situated about a mile south of the town of Colyton, and in that parish, on the line of road leading from Sidmouth to Lyme, is a place of considerable antiquity. Risdon says—"Colyford, a borough, sometime of reputation, which in records is written Vill de Colliford, implying the antiquity thereof: unto the burgesses whereof, Hugh Courtenay, earl of Devon, granted certain liberties by his deed:—Hugo Courtenay, junior, filius domini Hugonis Courtenay, comit. Devon, concessit burgenibus meis de Colliford libertat. cert. & in cujus reitest. Sigilla Hugonis patris et Hugonis filii sunt appens. testdom. Roger Jew, Jos.

de Raleigh, Nich. de Bonville, Gilbert de Umphravile, mil. dat. apud Colcombe 14 Edw. 3." Colyford, like that of its parochial neighbour Colyton, takes its name from the river Coly, or Coll—"Corylorum amnis trajectus"—a hazel-tree water passage. The privilege of electing a portreve has been exercised here from time immemorial, by the inhabitants paying scot and lot within the ancient boundaries of the borough; and the portreve for the time being enjoys the tolls of an annual fair for cattle, &c., held here on the 12th of March, if that day falls on a Wednesday, if not, on the next Wednesday following; and the profits of a small meadow, by paying to the lord, Sir W. T. Pole, bart., the sum of £4. 10s. as an acknowledgment or chief rent.

Antonines Iter, or the Ikeneld-way, has been traced, by James Davidson, esq., from Lyme along the hills to Axbridge, and through Colyford, where branches lead off to Axmouth, Seaton, Colyton, Streethayne, North-Leigh-Hill, and Glanwell; and from thence to a junction with the Ikeneld at Honiton. Sir T. Gates, a celebrated soldier, was born here. He was chosen to be governor of a colony in Virginia, but on his passage thither, with Sir George Somers, in 1609, was driven by a storm on shore on the Bermuda Islands, where they first planted the standard of England. The respectable family residences in the village are—Mar's Cottage, the seat of Capt. Walsh, R.A.; Colyford Cottage, the residence of Miss Beed; and the house of John Spiller, gent.

Coly Villa. This handsome mansion, situated on fine elevated ground at the south extremity of the village, possesses the form and some of the characteristics of a Grecian villa. It was erected in 1828, by its owner, Capt. Impey, R.N., who has successfully employed the hand of art in

giving an Attic effect to the natural beauties of the situation. From the elegantly finished apartments of the house, and the beautifully laid-out grounds in front, the picturesque vales of the Axe and the Coly, with their lateral contour of green hills and devious combes, are commanded, and afford to the eye a delicious extent of scenery, which includes the gathering together of the descending waters, and their union with the sea.

It appears that this village was a place of some consequence at an early period, and probably a Roman station, its street being formed on a Roman road. In 1645 the parish of Colyton and the neighbourhood was visited by the plague, when Colyford suffered severely, owing to its situation near the stagnant waters of the marshes. The church register shows, that in that year 354 died of what the recording minister called "the sickness." The foundation of St. Edmond's Chapel, mentioned in the chantry roll of 1547, was lately discovered in a field now belonging to Lieut. Powell.

In approaching the town of Colyton by either of the roads leading hither from Axminster, Honiton, Shute, or Sidmouth, a stranger is at once struck with the tranquil and romantic beauty of the vale of Coly, and the respectable outlines which the town presents, with its handsome parochial tower rising in the midst; but on entering on its streets disappointment grows upon him, and, ultimately, he is displeased with the motley mixture of discordant architecture of which it is composed, and is apt to imagine, that the Devonshire villages have each sent here its best house, and some of its worst cottages, as representatives to hold congress. Still, notwithstanding the irregularity of the streets, the mean appearance of the old houses, and the limited

knowledge and bad taste so obviously employed in the construction of many of the modern buildings, Colyton is a place of some importance, partaking, to a certain degree, of the comforts and conveniences of life.

King John, in the ninth year of his reign, granted a fair to Colyton, to be continued for eight days yearly. There are now held two annual fairs and three weekly markets in the town.

The manufacture of leather and paper have long been staple commodities here—viz., the paper-mills of W. J. Kingdon, esq.; the tanyards of Mr. William Snook and Mr. Thomas Beed; and the leather-dressing establishment of Mr. Hodge. Mr. Beed has, at a very great expense, effected important improvements at the north-west end of the town, by the erection of flour and grist mills, and other buildings for the accommodation of his extensive business. In 1834 an iron foundry, from which every article in that line can be had on reasonable terms, was established by Mr. White; and, owing to the ready communication opened, by the new harbour of Axmouth, with the metropolis and other large commercial towns, the trade of Colyton seems to have considerably increased of late years.

THE RIVER COLY.

Where feath'ry minstrels freely fly,
Or sweetly warbling, charm the sky;
Where humming bees, in od'rous bowers,
Drink nectar from the tender flowers:
'Mong pastures green, and woodlands fair,
The Coly murmurs sweetly there.

The features of the Coly are of a more tranquil and uniform character than many of her sister Devonian rivers. No huge granite ledges are thrown across her path to battle with—no abrupt transi-

tions—no precipitous rocks, out of whose rifts the mountain ash or oak cast anchor, and bid defiance to the storm—no tors, rearing their forms to the sky, are seen along her peaceful course; but gentle acclivities, clothed in deep verdure, or broad enamelled pastures, are her graceful and beautiful characteristics. She originates in a wood within the parish of Offwell, and passing down the vale southward for about a mile, drives a small mill near Colwell Barton, and proceeds to Purlbridge, where she has driven a set of mills from time immemorial: below Purlbridge the Coly is joined by the Brinkly, a considerable stream from the valleys of North-Leigh and Farway; and being augmented again, near Freekhayne, by the South-Leigh River, she pursues her winding course to Colyton, through meadows of the greatest beauty and fertility, where she is crossed by two bridges of three arches each—the Chantry and Umborne bridges. At the latter, the Coly receives the Umborne, a fine stream which rises in the parish of Cotleigh, and from that point flows in placid beauty to Colyford. Here it is crossed by a bridge of two arches, having on a pier of one of its arches—“John Hawker bvl't this bridge at the countie's charg 1681”; and about a mile from thence the Coly pours its congested volume, fresh from the mountain urn, into the salt estuary of the Axe.

The peculiar beauty of this river, and the scenery through which it flows, renders the tour of its banks one of the most delightful recreations imaginable. The sources whence it derives its waters, being gently elevated from the level of the sea, its whole course is one continued scene of animation. The tourist, as he views the adjacent hills and hanging woods, will often pause to listen to the babbling waters, and to observe

the infinity of forms which the downward flood is ever assuming. During the summer months, when nature is decked in her coronation robes, every scene above, below, and around, is beautiful and impressive: then the waters are most bright, and their eddies sparkle in the radiance of the sun in his strength; and then—

“ The skylark’s proud endeavour,
 The clouds of heav’n among;
 The music of the river,
 Are blended all in song.
 Woods whence the wild fowls sally;
 The flower-concealing glade;
 The green, the glossy valley,
 That seems for angels made.
 Sweet sights of nature gather
 In one delicious dream;
 The hill, the glen, the heather,
 The streamlet and the stream.”

WIDWORTHY.

“ Here green was the corn, as I journed my way,
 And bright were the dews on the blossoms of May,
 And dark was the sycamore’s shade to behold,
 And the oak’s tender leaf was of em’rald gold.
 The thrush from his holly, the lark from his cloud,
 Their chorus of rapture sung jovial and loud;—
 From the soft vernal sky, to the soft grassy ground,
 There was beauty above me, beneath, and around.”

THE remains of classical antiquity which still continue to adorn this parish, and the high respectability of its ancient and modern lords, has obtained for Widworthy an enduring character in the history of the county. In Domesday Book it is Wideworde, and in ancient writings, still extant, Wydworthie, which seems to be of Saxon origin, signifying the wide farm. The parish, for the most part, is situated in an open

and widely-extended vale, three miles east of Honiton, in the hundred of Colyton; and is bounded on the west and north by Offwell, east by Shute, and south by Colyton and North-Leigh. Its form is that of a trapezium, measuring about eight miles in circumference; and the soil, generally, is rich, and in a high state of cultivation, producing in some places grain of every description, and in others luxuriant pasturage. The north and north-west parts of the parish abound in excellent lime and free-stone quarries; from the north and south extremities of the former, two streams issue, about a mile apart, which being at certain seasons diverted over the subjacent meadows, render them luxuriantly fertile: the water is warm, and peculiarly transparent. Near the garden of Widworthy Court has lately been discovered a valuable stratum of sand, which will claim the attention of the geologist: it is of the finest description, and is mixed with marine shells in a very perfect state of preservation. On the north-east side of Widworthy-hill, which is the most elevated part of the locality, and whose highest point is nearly in the centre of the parish, are the remains of an ancient encampment; and on an eminence near the church, called Castle-Wood, are vestiges of a fortification supposed to be the foundation of the castle of the De Widworthies,* the early lords of the land. On

* "Widworthy had its inhabitants Sir W. de Widworthy, knt., Sir William his son, and Sir Hugh, son of Sir William, who, by Emma, daughter of Sir Walter Giffard, had issue Emma, wife of Sir R. Dinham, knight, in Edward the first's time. Julian de Widworthy held the same of R. Dinham and Emma his wife. In the 8th of Edward the second Muriel de Blackford held it. In the 19th of Edward the third J. Northcot held the same. And in the 47th of Edward the third T. Jewe and Julian his wife granted the manor of Widworthy to W. Wootton her son, who married Gundred, daughter of T. Wiger, and had issue John

Dalwood-hill, about a mile from thence, are the distinct remains of a Roman fortress. The workmen of E. M. Elton, esq., in forming the hedges of plantations on the spot, in March, 1837, found many coins of Antoninus Pius, &c. Emma, the daughter and heiress of the last Sir Hugh de Widworthy, in the time of Edward the first, brought this property to the family of Prouse, in whom it continued for several descents, until an heiress of Prouse brought it, by her marriage, to the family of Wotton, and so, it would appear, descended to Chichester, of Raleigh. John Chichester sold the manor of Widworthy to Benedictus Marwood,* esq., of Hornshays, in Colyton;

Wootton, of Widworthy, who, by Engaret, daughter of Walter Dimock, had issue Alis, wife of J. Chichester, who had issue Richard, the father of Nicholas, the father of John, which John gave Widworthy unto John his son, by his second wife, who was the daughter of Brett, of Whitstanton, who had issue John, that married Dorothy, daughter unto Hugh Dawbeney, of Wayford, by whom he had issue Hugh, who now dwelleth at Widworthy."

SIR W. POLE.

* The family of Marwood have been settled in this county from the earliest period of our authentic history. I shall, however, only give here the following part of their lineage, which embraces a period of 326 years:—Thomas Marwood, physician to Queen Elizabeth, was born in 1511, and died in 1617, aged 105. He was buried, with his wife Temperance, in the church of Honiton, where a handsome tomb of black marble, lately restored by E. M. Elton, esq., records his memory. This gentleman was succeeded by his son John, who built and resided in a commodious house near the town of Honiton, on the chimney of which is inscribed his own name, with that of his wife Bridget, and the date of the building, in gold letters. Here, on Thursday, July 25, 1644, he entertained the unfortunate Charles the first, on his march to Exeter. John Marwood, his son, married Frances, the daughter of John Burnard, esq., by whom he had issue Thomas and three other sons; the eldest of these, John, died leaving one son and two daughters, all of whom died unmarried. The two remaining brothers of the aforesaid Thomas died also unmarried, and the entire estate came to James Marwood, esq., only son of Thomas Marwood, esq., and Joan his wife, buried in Upottery church. James Marwood, esq., and Sarah his wife, daughter and heiress of Samuel Sealy, esq., of Avishays, Somerset, left one son, James Thomas Benedictus

and from this ancient family it descended to its present highly respected owner, Edward Marwood Elton, esq.

The ancient manor-house, situated near the church, is a large structure in the form of a quadrangle, evidently erected in the reign of Elizabeth, and is now a farm-house.

On the estates of Sutton* and Cookshayes are large manor-like houses, erected by the Marwood family about the year 1690, which was before they purchased the manor.

The only village in the parish is Wilmington, situated on the London road.

THE CHURCH.

The small, but well-proportioned, church of Widworthy, dedicated to St. Cuthbert, and, as are all the churches dedicated to that saint, in the form of a Latin cross, is an interesting old fabric. The extreme length of the building, within the walls, is fifty-one feet, and the breadth, including the transepts, thirty-six. The altar-piece, presented, in the summer of 1836, by E. M. Elton, esq., is a beautiful and impressive

Marwood, esq., who died unmarried. The eldest daughter of James Marwood, esq., who had issue, was Frances, the wife of Edward Elton, esq., who was high sheriff of Somerset in 1780, and great-grandson of Sir A. Elton, bart. The manor of Widworthy, the advowson of its church, and other lay property and estates, to a very considerable extent, in the adjoining parishes, are now vested in his grandson, E. M. Elton, esq., who bears the surname of Marwood, with that of Elton, by royal licence.

* Sutton, Lucy, and Lucyhays, in the time of Henry the second, were possessed by Morrice de Lucy; and in the time of Edward the first by Morrice de Lucy and Sir R. de Bulkworth. Afterwards these lands came to Sir Thomas Courtenay, and by Margaret Courtenay his daughter, to Sir T. Peverell, whose daughter, Catharine, was wife of Walter, Lord Hungerford. From Hungerford it descended to Henry Hastings, earl of Huntingdon, who sold it to Franklyn.

transcript of the transfiguration, on a small scale, by Guercino, from the celebrated picture by Raphael in St. Peter's church at Rome. In the south wall of the chancel is a Gothic piscina; and on the opposite side is a tablet of the family of Isaacks, of Ford, dated May 3, 1685: arms—A bend or, in a canton argent, a leopard's head sable; impaling, ermine, on a bend cotized sable, three griffins' heads or. And on the same wall, a memorial for James Marwood, M.D., and his two brothers, Benedictus and Thomas, eminent for piety and honour: arms—Gules, a chevron ermine, between three goats' heads erased ermined. On the south wall of the chancel is a tablet to the memory of Jacobi Somaster, *vir i prohi et rei medicæ periti quam Honitoni novem per annos feliciter exercuit*, 1748: arms—Argent, a castle between five fleurs-de-lis, within a bordure or: crest—a portcullis. The north transept contains two handsome monuments—1. For James Marwood, esq., great-grandfather to the present E. M. Elton, esq., who died April 3, 1767, aged 65. It was erected by the statuary Bacon, and presents a specimen of the happy style of that celebrated artist. In its centre is an elegantly enriched vase, standing on a Roman pedestal, on the one side of which is a beautiful figure of Justice suspending her scales, and on the other, Benevolence reclining over a pelican in its nest feeding its young. These chastely-executed decorations are sweetly relieved by a back ground of yellow, and a border of white marble, terminating at the top in an obtuse angle. 2. For Sarah Marwood, April 4, 1797, aged 85; with a memorial annexed for James Marwood Elton, esq., father of the present representative of that excellent family. He was high sheriff of Devon in 1815, and died Dec. 4, 1827, in the

fifty-second year of his age. This monument is of white marble, and cost £300. Under the window, between these monuments, beneath a flat arch, is the effigy of a knight in armour, with whiskers, mail gorget, and pointed helmet: on his shield are the arms of Wotton—three lions rampant, between five crosslets, two at the top, one in the centre, and two in base. It is supposed to represent William Wotton, who purchased the manor in the reign of Edward the third. In this window are represented, on stained glass, the arms of Elton quartered with those of Marwood: Elton—Paly of six, gules and or, on a bend sable three mullets of the second: Marwood—Gules, a chevron ermine between three goats' heads erased, ermined. Crest—An arm embowed in armour ppt. tied round with a scarf vert, holding in the gauntlet a scimitar argent, pommel or; with the motto, "Artibus et armis." In the south transept are two beautiful marble monuments—1. For James Thomas Benedictus Marwood, esq., who died Feb. 20, 1811, aged 65. It is decorated with a portrait of the defunct, his arms, and figures of Faith, Hope, and Charity; the whole executed at an expence of £700. 2. For Robert Marwood, esq., of Cookshays, nephew of Thomas Marwood, esq. He was high sheriff of Devon in 1730, and dying unmarried in 1735, he bequeathed his property to his cousin, James Marwood, esq. And Mrs. Bridget Marwood, his sister, Dec. 9, 1756, aged 79. On a flat stone, near the altar, are the arms of Chichester, and "*Dormitorium Johannis Chichester armigeri qui obiit nono die Junii anno salutis, 1661.*"

The communion-plate, viz., a chalice, and a silver vessel for the wine, were given by Mrs. B. Marwood, of Cookshays, in 1756; and a patten

by the Rev. J. Somaster, rector—in usum sacrosanctæ encharistæ, 1756. The registers are complete from 1540. The parish is a rectory—first-fruits, £11. 16s. 0½d.; yearly tenths, £1. 3s. 7½d. Patron, E. M. Elton, esq.; incumbent, the Rev. W. M. Tucker. Since the reformation, the following incumbents have been appointed:—Roger Slade and B. Palmer, 1575; Robert Perry, 1610; John Chichester, 1644; S. Periam, 1650; J. Bury, 1659; B. Dukes, 1663; Robert Cole, 1695; P. Stuckley, 1728; J. Somaster, 1736; W. J. Tucker, 1769; W. M. Tucker, 1831. The parsonage, an ancient fabric, stands near the church. All tithes are payable to the rector. A modus of 3s. 4d. is paid for every pit of lime burned in the parish; and the Manor Mills pay ten groats per annum.

WIDWORTHY COURT,

“ Where Genius from her native skies
Bids elegance and splendour rise.”

The old manor-house being in a decayed state, and in other respects unsuited to modern taste and comfort, a new mansion, of great elegance, has been recently erected from the designs of Mr. Repton. It stands about half a mile north-west of the church, and is approached from the London road by long winding avenues, lately formed, which will, when the young plantations grow up, constitute delightful approaches to this beautiful seat. The character of the building is that of the Grecian-Doric: it consists of a quadrangular body, four stories in height, and a north wing, which is enclosed on the south and east fronts by a terrace 163 feet long by 56 in breadth. The principal entrance is crowned with an elegant Bath-stone portico, which is supported by four handsome columns, and surmounted by a rail of

chaste balusters: and on the south side the beauty of proportion is balanced by an octagonal projection, of the same stone, of the most delicate workmanship. The entrance hall, 52 feet in length by 20 in width, is lighted by handsome windows, filled up with stained glass, in the principal of which we have the arms of Elton quartered with Marwood. The floor of the hall, and the stair, are of Portland stone, relieved by squares of black marble. The dining-room, 37 feet by 20, is proportioned by Grecian-Doric columns with pilasters: the handsome chimney is of black Normandy marble; and elegant tapestry, representing the Feast of Bacchus, and a convivial meeting in southern America, when drawn, forms the curtains, and covers one entire side of the room. The drawing-room, 30 feet by 26, is connected with a second, by folding doors, 22 feet by 20. The library, 30 feet by 20, contains a first-rate collection of books. The breakfast-room is 22 feet by 15; and the billiard-room is 24 feet by 18. These principal compartments are 15 feet high. The bed-room chimney-pieces, and those of the library and breakfast-room, are of Normandy marble. The chimney of the grand hall, and its great window, are of Widworthy stone. This commodious mansion is heated by hot air, with valves to be opened at pleasure into each of the principal rooms. It possesses much room, every convenience is complete, and all the furniture and embellishments are of the most elegant description. But, independent of every other enrichment, Widworthy Court is rendered eminently interesting and attractive by the paintings which adorn the walls of its interior. This superb collection, of which the following list embraces the principal pieces, was selected and purchased on the continent by the grandfather

of the present proprietor :—Peasants regaling, by Giles Van Tilberg. Boars drinking, by Teniers. The storm, by Loutherbrough. Ruins in Rome, by Pablo Pannini. Its companion, by ditto. Shipping, calm, by D. Serres. Views of Venice and the Palace of St. Marks, the Bridge of Sighs, &c., by Antonio Canaletti. A hunting piece, by John Wyck, born at Haerlem in 1640. The prodigal son spending his substance in riotous living, by Van Harp. St. Peter's, at Rome, and the pope's procession, by Henry Van Lint. Diana comes from heaven to visit Endymions, by Peter Molyn, jun. A rural scene, shepherds, &c. Louis the fourteenth on horseback, by Francesco Tucherelli. A landscape, with an inn and travellers regaling, by Solomon Ruysdael. View in Holland in 1756, by J. Teu Compet. A landscape, by P. F. Ferg. The portrait of a lady, by P. Lely. Herdsmen and flocks, by P. Ross, called Rosa de Tivoli. A Spanish cavalier, by J. G. Guzales, a Spanish painter born at Madrid in 1630. View at Naples, by Fabris, and its companion. A cattle piece, and its companion, by Omneganch. Travellers passing a bridge with cattle, &c., by N. Berghem. A landscape, and its companion, by Wilson. A landscape, by J. Booth. Peasants regaling, by G. V. Tilbury, the younger. (Teniers had often the mortification of seeing the works of this artist preferred to his own.) A landscape, with cattle, by Ibbotson. A hawking party, by Philip Wowermans. A landscape, by Philip Reinagle. An Italian landscape, and its companion, by John Glauber and Gerard de Lairese. A battle piece, and its companion, by John Van Hugtenburg. Moses feeding the flocks of Jethro his father-in-law, by P. F. Mola. A landscape, by Ashford. A landscape, by J. F. Cnyp, called Old Cnyp. A stag-

hunt, by John Hackaert. Europa and Jupiter transformed into a bull, by Bernard Leus, the younger. Sheep-shearing, by G. de Ponte, called St. Bassano. Game piece, by John Weenin. The Virgin and the Infant Saviour, by Ginlio Romano, the pupil of Raphael. A landscape, by J. Artois and Teniers. Hagar and Ishmael, by G. F. B. Guercino. Hector taking leave of his wife Andromache—

“ O thou! whose glory fills th’ ætherial throne,
And all ye deathless pow’rs! protect my son.”

by John Restaut, a French painter, born at Rouen in 1692. Blackfriar’s Bridge, by W. Marlow. The ancient fort of Rheinfels, and St. Goar, on the Rhine, by ditto. Dionysius the younger, being driven from Syracuse, supports himself by keeping a school, and, as Cicero observes, that he might still continue to be a tyrant, by Guercius. Socrates instructing the Athenian youth, by ditto. Monk and Magdalen, by Joachim Sandrat, born at Frankfort in 1606. The Persian sybil, a copy from the original in the Corsini palace at Rome, by Domenichino. The visit to the grandfather, by J. B. Smith. The Disaster: this is an original, from which the engravings have been taken, by F. Wheatley. Street musicians—a woman with a tambourine, &c., by Henry Verscharing, born at Gorcum in 1627, and drowned near Dort in 1690. A conversation, after Rubens, by Van Harp. A view in Venice, by Antonis Canaletti. Europa and Jupiter transformed into a bull, by P. J. Tassart, born at Brussels in 1736. A battle piece, by P. Vander Menlen. The judgment of Paris, who presented the golden apple to Venus, by Antoine Coypel. Jupiter, at the prayer of Latona, transforming the rustics who had insulted her into frogs, by A. Coypel—

“tollensque ad sidera palmas,
 Aeternum stagno dixit, vivatis in isto:
 Eveniunt aptata Deæ. Juvatesse subundas,
 Et modo tota cava submergere membra palude.” *

The portrait of a young female, by Greuse. The portrait of Heraclitus, the mourning philosopher.

During the erection of this handsome fabric, a great expence was incurred by having the free-stone from Bath, till a stone of equal beauty and durability was discovered in a field adjoining the park, of which the handsome terrace on the south side of the house is built. A great variety of rich hill and dale scenery expands in breadth and beauty around Widworthy Court, and all the views from thence terminate in the distant elevated ranges, whose green outlines blend sweetly with the azure sky.

Charities. Robert Marwood, esq., by will, dated July 2, 1733, gave an annuity of 20s. to be distributed among the poor yearly on St. Luke's day. B. Marwood, esq., by will of Feb. 24, 1742, gave the interest of £100 for the education of poor children of the parish. James Marwood, esq., gave, by his will of Feb. 2, 1759, a house for the accommodation of the parish school, and an annuity of 40s. per annum towards the support of the master. The Rev. J. Somaster, rector, by will, in 1769, gave £100, the interest of which to be given, one moiety to the schoolmaster, and the other to the poor, yearly, in bread, on Christmas day. The Rev. W. J. Tucker, rector, by will, gave £200, the interest thereof to be given,

* Translated thus—

And lifting to the stars his outstretched hands,
 He said, for ever live in swampy lands;
 The goddess' wish fulfill'd, they gladly lave
 Their limbs, and plunge them in the fetid wave.

annually, one moiety to the schoolmaster, and the other to the poor, in bread, on the morrow of the Resurrection of Christ. This gentleman died on Dec. 26, 1830, in the 88th year of his age.

OFFWELL.

THIS romantic parish, lying on the west side of Widworthy, is two miles long by about one in breadth, and derives its chief importance from the great respectability and patronage of the ancient family of Copleston, its principal proprietors. The village, situated on the direct road from Colyton to Honiton, two and a half miles from the latter, and five from the former, is a neat one, consisting of clean and healthy cottages, inhabited by labourers in husbandry, some farmsteads, an inn, called "The Five Bells," the parish church, a Gothic school-house, and a handsome rectory-house. The school-house was erected, in 1830, by Edward Copleston, bishop of Llandaff, in imitation of an ancient chantry, still standing at Trent, in Somerset. Its front presents a neat porch in the pointed style, surmounted by this inscription—"The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom." On the north gable of the fabric is a shield, intended for the arms of Copleston, and those of the see of Llandaff; and on the other a canonical cap—both elegantly cut in stone. At the north end of this chaste fabric stands a Gothic stone pump, thus inscribed—"Whoever drinketh of this water shall thirst again. A.D. MDCCCXXX"; and at the other end, a granite pillar bearing a sun-dial, and the admonition, "Let not the sun go down upon your wrath."

The parish church, a respectable and well-proportioned building, dedicated to St. Mary, is fifty feet in length by twenty-seven wide; and consists of a chancel, and a nave opening into a north aisle by four plain pointed arches, an ancient south porch, and a modern vestry room, with a tower sixty feet high. In the chancel are respectable monuments for the Rev. John Bradford Coplestone, prebendary of St. Peter's, Exeter, and vicar of St. Thomas the Apostle, who died April 8, 1831, aged 81; Harriet, daughter of the late J. Townsend, esq., of Honiton, and wife of the Rev. J. G. Coplestone, the present esteemed clergyman of the parish, who died January 10, 1835; Arthur Edward, second son, and Ellen, fourth daughter, of J. G. Coplestone, the latter who died February 15, 1815, aged seven months, and the former, March 10, 1809, aged six years. On a stone tablet in the south aisle are the arms of Southcott—Argent, a chevron gules, between three coots proper, and this inscription—"His prope requiescit joanna, uxor Thomæ Southcott de Kilmington gen: filia natu maxima, Gulielmi et Annæ Collyns de Collwall, armig. Obiit 14 die Dec. Anno Domini 1696." Here is also an ancient sepulture of an ecclesiastic, without an inscription, distinguished by crosses flory. The patronage of the living, until purchased by the father of J. B. Copleston, was in the Fulford family, and is now in the bishop of Llandaff. The registers begin in 1555. First fruits, £14. 3s. 6½d.—yearly tenths, £1. 8s. 4½d.

The ancient rectory house stood nearly a mile north-east of the church, where a barn now stands. In this house, which must have been a respectable one, resided the Rev. T. Jones, rector of Offwell and one of the portions of Tiverton, who was taken prisoner by the serjeant at arms, for "preaching an anti-parliamentary sermon at Tiverton," and

had to relinquish his preferment at the latter place in 1640. In the following year he was taken at Taunton, and imprisoned in the castle there, for being "a malignant." After his liberation, and on his way to join Sir Ralph Hoptoun's army in Cornwall, he was overtaken and robbed of £80 by Capt. Gould; but returning to Offwell, he gave public thanks for his deliverance, for which, and "neglecting the parliamentary fast," and for "superstitiously observing Good Friday," he was brought before the sessions, and severely reproached. Subsequently, during Cromwell's rebellion, this good man had his parsonage plundered seven times, his furniture wantonly demolished, and his books and cattle taken away. Thus persecuted, and fearing further violence, he fled to Rotterdam, where he died a short period before the restoration. Humphry Bradford, who succeeded Jones at Offwell, conformed at the restoration, and died in possession of the living. Another glebe-house, called "the vicarage," stood on the east side of the church-yard, which, with the former, was standing about half a century ago, when the present elegant rectory-house, about two hundred yards from the church, was annexed, with two acres of land adjoining, to the rectory, by the Rev. John Bradford Copleston, in lieu of the before-mentioned houses, which were demolished agreeably to a faculty obtained for that purpose.

Offwell, or Offa's well, is bounded on the north by the county of Dorset. Its soil is rather cold, and for the most part, more favourable for pasturage than agriculture: sweet vallies, hanging woods, and green hills, however, abound in the parish, and give it a fine pictorial effect, as viewed from the public road. The manor, which belonged to the family of Collins in the time of

Sir W. Pole,* has since been dismembered. West Colwell and Northcombe was, in 1773, the property of Michael Southcote, esq. The parish is enclosed by richly wooded hedgerows; and in Colwell wood, which occupies an area of about a hundred acres, Bishop Copleston has effected great and valuable improvements, which include the formation of capacious fish-ponds, and other artificial decorations, that prove highly ornamental to the place.

In 1773 the population of this parish was 300, and by the census taken by order of government in 1831, 380.

Charities. By deed, dated Jan. 23, 1752, made for the appointment of new trustees, it appears, that Dorothy Southcot gave twenty pounds for the assistance of impotent persons unable to work, and not receiving parochial relief; and

* "Offwell, anciently Uffwell—those of that name were lords; namely, Stephen, Gervais, and Robert de Uffwell, unto whom were heirs Genovesa, wife of William de Parco, and Julian, wife of John de Orway; also Roger de Vere had a third part thereof in the time of Henry the third. Sir T. Courtenay had the part of Park, 19 Edward the third; John Vere and John Orway had the other two parts the same time. The master of the hospital held there the tenth part of a fee, and in Colwell the twentieth of a fee: Courtenay's part came unto the lord Dinham; Vere's part came, by Mules Gilbert and Norbury, unto the Lord Bray; and Orway's part was dispersed, and from Drake, part came unto Raddon. William Collins, of Colwell, hath now the whole manor, except the little portion that Raddon hath. Colwell, in the parish of Offwell, hath had divers of that name inhabitants therein—viz., Henry de Colwill, William his son, Philip, John, Thomas, and William, who successively were lords thereof. In King Edward's time, about the latter end of his reign, that Walter Trenchard and Agnes his wife (which held Colwell in jointure after the death of Ralph Colwell) granted the Grange of Colwell unto William de Park and Genovesa his wife. Sir Thomas Courtenay, knight, in the 19th of King Edward the third, had Colwell, from whom, by Peverell and Hungerford, it descended unto the earl of Huntingdon, and was sold by Henry, earl of Huntingdon, unto William Franklin, before mentioned; and by Peter Franklin sold unto William Collins, gent., who now dwelleth there."

that Henry Southcot, esq., by his will, gave other twenty pounds for the same purpose. These sums, together with ten pounds, the residue of Raddon's bequest, and ten pounds taken out of the poor rates, with the consent of the parishioners,—in all sixty pounds,—have been laid out in the purchase of three and a half acres of land, called "Gray-stone meadow," and the rent of it is annually distributed, by the Rev. J. G. Copleston, among such of the aged poor of the parish as do not receive relief, in sums varying from two to five shillings each, according to circumstances.

NORTH-LEIGH.

THIS parish, only eight miles in circumference, is situated between Offwell and South-Leigh, on the west side of Colyton, and by the returns of 1831 contains 46 dwelling-houses, and a population of 240, of whom 13 are registered voters.

North-Leigh, at an early period, in the name of Leigh, lord of South-Leigh, was, in the time of Henry the third, given by Sir William de Leigh, knight, to William, his youngest son, among whose daughters it was divided.* Three parts of North-Leigh came to Bonville, and from him to Lord Petre. The other part was in the priory of Canonleigh, and was purchased by the Prideaux family. In 1773 Lord Petre was lord of the manor, who, in 1794, sold it entire to J. M. How, esq., of South-Leigh, from whom

* *Willielmus de Lega sive de Leighe miles dominus de North Leigh tempore H. 3. qui quidem Willielmus dedit manerium illud Willielmo de lega filio juniore & heredibus suis: quod quidem manerium per femellas devenit ad familias de Colwell Esse et Motshorne.*

this property descended to the present lord, Capt. Proby, R.N., of the Ryalls, Seaton, who married Miss How.

The church, standing on a pleasing eminence in the centre of the parish, is supposed to have been erected by a maiden lady of the name of Mallock, who lies buried here, on the left side as we enter the church by the porch, at her own desire; as on that side females only were allowed to sit; and here, for this reason, she desired to be buried, for even in death she dreaded the too near approach of man. The patron saint of the church is not known, but from the form of the fabric, the direction of its chancel, and the revel being held on the first Monday in September, it has been assigned to St. Giles. The building consists of a chancel, separated from the main body by an ancient oak screen of open tracery, with a beautiful upper border of quatre-foils and oak foliage; a nave, opening into a north aisle by four well-proportioned pointed arches; a south porch; and a tower, forty feet high, containing four bells. On the north side of the altar is an elliptical piscina; and on the floor of the north aisle are several flat grave-stones of the Marwood family, but their inscriptions being defaced, I could only make out "John Marwood, of Blamp-hayne, Aug. 9, 1671;" and "Francis Marwood, April 5, 1700, aged 71." The church, from the altar to the extremity of the belfry, is sixty feet long, and, with the aisle, twenty-seven wide.

The registers begin—marriages, 1708; baptisms, 1700; burials, 1697. The Rev. — Salter, of Sidmouth, is the present incumbent. First-fruits, £10. 9s. 7d.—yearly tenths, £1. 11½d.

FARWAY.

“ Here down the flow’ry vale, on either side,
 Within the hedges, dress’d in flow’ry pride,
 The votive warblers make the covers ring
 With love’s fond notes, which they in transport sing.”

THIS parish* occupies a fine agricultural vale, of a longitudinal form, and some small but beautiful hills, about three miles south of Honiton; and is bounded on the west by Gittesham and Sidbury, on the north by Honiton and Offwell, and on the south-east and south by Colyton and South-Leigh. At the conquest it was given to the bishop of Constance, in Normandy; after whom, and until the 19th of Edward the third, it was in succession possessed by the families of Flemming, Mohum, and Osborn; when this land came to Courtenay, earl of Devon, and, by the attainder of the marquis of Exeter, escheated to the crown. Frye, Willoughby, and Trevelyan, next succeeded each other as lords of Farway; and at this time it is vested in the Rev. T. Putt. Knolle† and Boycombe went, in the time of Henry the sixth, by the sister of J. Knolle, to John Neitheway; from whom, by an intermarriage, it came to C. Hoskins. Afterwards, one part of it was alienated to Prideaux, and the other to Willoughby; and Mr. W. Newberry is

* Farway is a Saxon word, signifying a roadway or thoroughfare.

† Immediately after the conquest, Knolle was held by R. de Abber-Knolle, and afterwards it fell to Flemming. In Henry the third’s time, Sir W. Flemming gave it to Adam, son of Learick de la Hall, who changed his name to A. de Knolle. Some others of this name held Knolle, until the reign of Henry the sixth, when John Knolle, dying without issue, left it to his sister, who married one of the Neithaway family. John Neithaway left it to Joan, wife of C. Hoskins.

the present owner of Knolle. Boycombe, now the property and residence of W. Guppy, esq., was the ancient manor-house, and in its form and features exhibit faithful characteristics of the days of yore.

Widcombe and Whiteleigh were the ancient inheritance of Hilion; then of Prouse, of Gatcombe; and by Elizabeth, sister of Prouse, they, in the time of Richard the second, came to Perchay, in which name they continued till the reign of Queen Elizabeth, when they were both sold to N. Wadham, esq., who left this land to the heirs of his sisters.

Netherton is the principal domain in this parish. It belonged to Canonleigh, and was purchased by Piers, who, as my authority shows, sold it to the celebrated Sir Bernard Drake. The family of Lowman held the demesne; from whom it was purchased by Sir Edmond Prideaux, bart., a younger son of Roger Prideaux, esq., of Soldon, who also bought the manor of Netherton from J. Drake, esq. Sir Edmond was a lawyer of great respectability in the reign of Elizabeth, and acquired in his profession, not only reputation, but wealth, which enabled him to raise his family to a degree of respectability and rank in this county beyond any of his ancestors. He built Netherton Hall, and was made a baronet by James the first on July 17, 1622; but dying on March 28, 1628, at the age of 74, he was succeeded by his eldest son, Sir Peter.* The present amiable and highly

* This is a very ancient and honourable family: its progenitor, Pegasus de Prideaux, possessed and resided in Prideaux Castle, Cornwall, before the conquest. The ninth in descent from him was Sir John Prideaux, of Orchaston, knight-banneret, who repeatedly represented Devon in parliament: he was succeeded by his son, Sir Piercey Prideaux, knight, who married Isabella, daughter of W. Montacute, earl of Salisbury, and king of Man, by whom he had two sons, Roger, his successor (whose son, Sir

respected representative of this ancient family, Sir Edmond Saunderson Prideaux, bart., who succeeded his brother, Sir Wilmot, on May 18, 1838, resides chiefly at Netherton Hall, which is a seat of very great antiquity, beautifully situated in the vale, under a fine green eminence.

The church of Farway, dedicated to St. Michael, presents a good and durable specimen of the ecclesiastical edifices reared about the close of the fourteenth century. The chancel is of a much earlier date; and the north aisle was erected at the expence of Mr. Hutchins, a gentleman of the parish, in 1628. The stately tower, sixty feet high, standing at the west end of the aisle, I suspect to have been built about the same period. All modern alterations and repairs here have been judiciously effected; and I was gratified to see that the good people of Farway have

John, having killed his relative, Sir W. Bigberry, at the Five Crosses, near Modbury, in a duel, was obliged to alienate several manors to obtain his pardon) and Sir John, who married Joan, daughter of G. Adeston, esq., from which union lineally descended Humphrey Prideaux, esq., of Thewborough, and Adeston, whose youngest son, Roger Prideaux, esq., of Soldon, was high sheriff of Devon in 1580. This gentleman's youngest son was the celebrated lawyer, Sir Edmond Prideaux, bart., autumn-reader, treasurer, and double-reader of the Inner Temple. He died in 1628, and was succeeded by his eldest son, Sir Peter, who at his decease, in 1682, was succeeded by his only surviving son, Sir Peter, who married Lady Elizabeth Granville, sister of John, earl of Bath. He was succeeded by his eldest son, Sir Edmond, who died in 1691, and was succeeded by his eldest son, Sir Edmond, who dying without issue male, on Feb. 26, 1728, was succeeded by his half-brother, Sir John, who married Anne, eldest daughter of John, viscount Lisburn, by whom he had three sons and two daughters—Saunderson, killed at Carthagen in 1741; John, lieutenant-general, killed at Niagara in 1752, leaving issue, by Elizabeth, daughter of T. Rolt, esq., John Wilmot, seventh baronet, Edward Baynton Edmond, Elizabeth, Peter. Sir John died in August, 1766, and was succeeded by his grandson, Sir John Wilmot, who married Miss Priddle, and had issue John Wilmot, and Sir Edmond Saunderson Prideaux, bart., the present honourable and esteemed owner of the hall and lands at Netherton.

duly respected that rubric which declares, that "the chancels shall remain as they have done in times past." The chancel, enclosed by a plain oak screen of open tracery, with the nave, and a recently erected vestry at its west extremity, measures seventy feet in length, and, including the lateral aisle, with which it communicates by four plain pointed arches springing from circular capitals,* thirty-four feet wide. On the north wall of the chancel are the following memorials of the dead:—Mrs. Frances Alford, Sept. 20, 1738. R. Blake, A.M., rector, Sept. 22, 1788, aged 66. Hannah Atkinson, Dec. 6, 1796. J. Gould, A.M. 1757, aged 69; and Letitia his wife, Nov. 1, 1768, aged 70. In the Netherton aisle are several handsome statuary monuments for the Prideaux family:—1. Edmond Gardiner Prideaux, Sept. 1, 1833, aged ten months. 2. Sir Peter Prideaux, Nov. 22, 1705, aged 79; over whose monument are placed his arms—argent, a chevron sable, in chief a label of three points gules; impaling Granville—gules, three horseman's rests or. 3. Sir J. W. Prideaux, March 4, 1826, aged 79; and dame Anna Phebe, his lady, Sept. 2, 1793; and Sir J. W. Prideaux, bart., May 13, 1833, aged 42. 4. Under a circular arch, surmounted by ornamental statuary, and a shield† charged with the arms of Prideaux, and those of the matches of that family on nine quarterings, are recumbent two effigies in stone—1. Sir Peter Prideaux, bart., who died in 1705, arrayed in rich armour, with a shield on his left arm, and his sword pointed to his feet. 2. Sir Edmond Prideaux, bart., the celebrated lawyer, in a gown

* Here we have very perfect specimens of Saxon columns and capitals.

† This shield is defaced by whitewash, which I hope the present worthy baronet will have removed.

and ruff, with this inscription—" In memory of Sir Edmond Prideaux, barronette, who died ye. 28 day of March, anno Domini 1628, aetatis suæ 74." The parochial registers have been kept in the most respectable manner, the oldest of which begins with 1567. Patron of the church, the Rev. T. Putt; rector, the Rev. T. Marker; officiating clergyman, the Rev. Richard Lewis.* First-fruits, £15 6s. 8d.; yearly tenths, £1 10s. 8d.; certified value, £247. J. Guppy, esq., is a respectable proprietor in this parish.

The population in 1831 was 346, who are chiefly employed in the business of husbandry. The assessed value of real property in Farway is £2,573 per annum.

In the church-yard are two of the finest yews which I have seen—they measure nineteen feet and a half in circumference; and a stately elm, standing on the north boundary of the church-yard, I found to measure twenty feet round.

Charities. Hannah Atkinson, by will, dated Nov. 18, 1795, gave to the rectors of the parishes of Farway, Offwell, and North-Leigh, £250 in the three per cents. reduced annuities, on trust, the dividends of which to be applied towards the support of a school at Farway. Elizabeth Cox, in 1784, by will gave £20, the interest of which is annually given to the poor, in bread, at the house in which she lived.

* To this gentleman I here offer my best thanks, for his kind attention to me when I visited Farway.

SOUTH-LEIGH.

*Illic saltus, ac lustra ferarum,
Et patiens operum parvoque assueta juventus.*

VIRG.

THIS parish, for fertility of soil and romantic beauty, is second to none on the variegated bosom of South Devon. Being situated among the hills south of North-Leigh, the Saxons called it Southlega—the south seat or dwelling. The parish measures only about six miles in circumference, and is circumscribed by Colyton, except a small portion on the west side, where it joins Farway.

The conqueror gave South-Leigh to W. Polgi, who was succeeded by Leigh, of which there were two knights, the last of whom, Sir W. Leigh, gave this land to Christian, his daughter, married in the 11th of Edward the second to N. Polstone.* In Edward the third's time Hugh Courtenay, earl of Devon, was lord of South-Leigh, but before the expiration of that reign exchanged it for Colcombe Sackville, with Sir W. Bonville, from whom it descended to Sir W. Petre in the time of the eighth Henry. In that name it continued until the year 1794, when Lord Petre sold the manors and rectories of South-Leigh and North-Leigh to John M. How, esq., from whose executors the former were purchased by C. Gordon esq., the present lord and patron.

* Phillippus de Lega sive de Leigh fuit dominus de South-Leigh in initio regni H. 3. Johannes de Lego anno. 37 H. 3. fuit dominus ibidem Willielmus de Lega sive Leigh successit dicto Johanni anno 11 E. 2d. Thomas de Leigh dominus ibidem in initio regis H. 3. Thomas Hatche de Wolledge in jure uxoris fuit dominus ibidem a quo ad Mallettos et ab illis Arthuro Ackland militi in jure Christianæ uxoris ejus devirit heriditas.

The beautiful domain of Wiscombe, which now embraces more than three parts of the entire parish, with parts of the parishes of Sidbury, East-Budleigh, and Colyton, was anciently held by R. de Dalditch, of the abbey of St. Michael, in periculo maris; and about the middle of the reign of Henry the third the abbey granted it to Sir W. Bonville, knight, in whose posterity it continued until the attainder of Gray, duke of Suffolk; soon after which, it was in the possession of the family of Petre, who retained it until sold with the manor and rectory to J. M. How, esq. This gentleman died in 1813, and in 1816 this property, with the manor of South-Leigh and advowson of its church, was sold to C. Gordon, esq., whose residence is Wiscombe Park.

Morganhays, a farm in this parish, was for fifteen descents in the family of Morgan. Christopher Morgan, the last male heir, dying unmarried, left it to his two sisters, who sold it to Rose, of Lyme, and a marble monument in the church shows that two generations, at least, of this name must have resided here. Elizabeth, wife of the last Richard Rose, died at Morganhays on Dec. 7, 1705. After this period, Shepherd, Cholmondely, and Vicars, were successive proprietors of this estate. And about the year 1770 it was purchased from Sir Horace Mann by Sir J. W. de la Pole, bart.

Screull, formerly Scrinell, a good farm, pleasantly situated near the north extremity of the parish, was possessed by the family of Walrond from the time of Edward the first until a recent period. It is now the residence and property of Mr. J. Newbery.

The church consists of a nave and chancel, of about the commencement of the fifteenth century, opening into a south aisle erected in 1821,

both forty-six feet long by thirty-six wide; a south porch, and a square embattled tower forty-two feet high. Over its neat altar-piece is a splendid painting, representing, with happy fidelity, the wise men, offering gifts of gold, frankincence and myrrh, to the infant Jesus—

“ Say, shall we yield him in costly devotion,
 Odours of Edom and offerings divine;
 Or gems of the mountains, and pearls of the ocean,
 Myrrh from the forest, or gold from the mine.”

Near the altar, are monuments of white marble, to the memory of the following persons:—1. J. M. How, esq., who died at Wiscombe, March 21, 1813, aged 57; the Rev. T. Howe, A. M., March 15, 1819, aged 61; and the Rev. James How, A. M., Feb. 4, 1817. 2. John and Richard Rose, esqrs., of Morganhays, and Elizabeth, wife of the latter, who died Dec. 7, 1705, aged 79. 3. For the Vickers, inscribed with the family arms, and dated 1753. But the greatest curiosity here is the Ionic monument of Robert Drake, Armiger Auratus, 1600. Within the niche, under its cornice, are five shields:—1. Drake Argent, a wivern, with wings, displayed gules, impaling a chevron argent, between three crescents. 2. Drake, impaling Granville. 3. Drake, impaling Prideaux. 4. Drake, impaling Ermine, three battle-axes gules. 5. Drake, impaling Afesse, between three fleurs-de-lis.

The first fruits of Southleigh are £11 8s. 9d. yearly tenths, £1 2s. 10½d. Patron, Charles Gordon, esq.; rector, the Rev. T. Marker; officiating clergyman, the Rev. T. Woolstone; population of the parish, 387; registered voters, 15.

SOUTH-LEIGH VALE.

Here gay as spring, each shrub-dress'd cottage glows
With lilacs, woodbine, and the blushing rose.

The vale of Southleigh is a south-west continuation of that of Colyton, here thrown into a finer and more picturesque form, leaving the village church, attendant cottages, and rural homesteads, its semi-lunar depression, sweeps in a westerly direction, exhibiting at every part of its extended and beautiful outline, a splendour and a greatness which well accords with the bold indented character of the shore. Here, indeed, are no stupendous rocks, pendent in air, to give an awful sublimity to the subjacent landscape; but for what nature in her vagary has withheld in this respect, she has given in others, with a lavishing and usurping hand. Southleigh hill, which emerges by a pleasing ascent from the centre of the incurvation of the vale into a circuitous frontier, is crowned with a noble crescent of wood, that rears its luxuriant banners among the ever varying clouds in dark and mysterious grandeur. In the centre of this impressive mass, the embattled crest of a gothic tower peeps forth, as if unwilling to be concealed by the thick verdure of bough and leaf that surround it. At the south extremity of this woodland range, are the remains of a capacious British camp, on which a fir plantation now flourishes, called Blackbury Castle, which from its position, must have been a military station of considerable strength. After descending through some enclosures from this wilderness of wood, Wiscombe Park, and the beautifully terraced eminence beyond it lies full in view; and it would indeed be a task of mental ingenuity and taste, to conceive a finer or more magnificent spectacle.

The turrets and battlements of the handsome manor house, holding communion with the ample and lofty boughs which preside in native majesty over the emerald sward and ornamental creations of the park ; the opulent and variegated garden, with its associated endearments of light and shade, the sweetly romantic river, retarded at intervals in its meandering career, and converted into lake-like fishponds, which terminate in gleaming cascades, when invested with the garniture of spring, the full blown profusion of summer, or the ripe honours of autumn, present a scene of picturesque beauty, on which an angel might look down with placid satisfaction and increasing delight:—

“ In all such seasons, here is union sweet,
Of tree and torrent, verdure—waterfall,
And leaf-hung streamlet, myriads of forms
Start into life, that shun the highland waste.
————— green and gold,
Moss, ivy, lichen, rises o’er the broad
Luxuriant sward. And in the pleasant grass
That smiles around, fair waving in the breeze,
Delicious hues are seen, innumerable.—
As if the rain-drops of the fresh wild spring,
Had blossomed where they fell.”

Wiscombe House, is an elegant mansion of the double form, measuring eighty feet in length, by forty-six in width. On both sides the walls terminate in battlements, and the angles in turrets, similar to those of the cathedral of Exeter. Its handsome windows are coped with gothic labels, and the proportions of the south front are balanced by a chaste portico, of the light decorated gothic style. The vestibule or hall, extending the entire width of the fabric, is lighted by an elegant gothic window of the pointed style, filled with stained

glass. The old manor house * was demolished in 1825, and on its site the present chaste and beautiful edifice, completed by the close of 1826, from a plan executed by Mr. J. Power, of Colyton, under the inspection of its munificent owner C. Gordon, esq. To this gentleman, is the situation largely indebted for its present beautiful appearance. With the exception of the elder woods and plantations, the embellishments are all his own; and on viewing the happy combinations which his good taste and ingenuity has produced, and the extent of his lordship in every direction, he may well say with Alexander Selkirk :—" I am monarch of all I survey."† The whole vale being screened from every wind by encircling eminences, clothed with deep foliage, the air is melodious, even in winter:—*Hic ver assiduum, atque alienis mensibus æstas.* The river, the sweet dimpling daughter of the mountains, is thrown into eddies by the sportive trout, and on its fragrant banks, where flora spreads an opulence of flowers, the hare and cony gamble among the fleecy flocks; and either strutting in affected dignity by the woodside, or wheeling in majesty through the buoyant air; the bold form of a

* On the west part, over an hille beyond Seton, is Wiscombe, a fair manor place, sumtyme the Lord Bonville's, now longgong to the Marquise of Dorsette. Leland. Risdon says:—Wiscombe, sometime belonging to the Priory of Otterton, was in the time of King Henry the third, by the prior granted to Sir N. Bonvill, Knt., which he made his dwelling, and had here a large park for deer, not long since disparked by Lord Petre, whose inheritance now it is. Here, now inhabits a generous tribe of the Drakes, of which, besides other brothers, were Robert and Henry, the sons of Robert; the first a Colonel in the Netherlands, of good esteem with the Prince of Orange and the states, for his valour; the other a Captain of much hope, both taken away in the flower of their age, in defence of Ostend.

† Arms of Gordon—Within a bordure azure, argent, three boar's heads, erased or. Crest, out of a ducal coronet two arms grasping a bow bent. Motto—*Fortuna Sequatur.*

pheasant enhances the variety of the animated and attractive scene. Sweet vale of the west, adieu for the present, but still—

*Rura mihi et rigui placeant in vallibus amnes,
Flumina amem silvasque inglorious.*

Charities. The Rev. James How, by will, dated Oct. 1, 1816, gave the interest of £100 in the five per cents, towards the support of a school in the parish, and the interest of another £100 to be given to the poor annually on Christmas day.

BRANSCOMBE.*

Branscombe coasts the sea, between the parishes of Seaton and Salcombe Regis, and is particularly remarkable for the beautiful inequalities of its surface, and the highly picturesque character of its scenery. Several ridges of green hills leave the north, north west, and west extremities of the parish, and decline with increasing elevation in a regular manner into a triangular dale, which opens on the English Channel. In this secluded spot is a romantic village of twenty-five cottages, the vicarage house an ancient fabric, now the residence of the Rev. S. H. Peppin, the parish minister; and away, westward, about three parts of a mile from the village, in a defile of the hills, stands the ancient parish church. Edge or Egge, the property of S. Bartlett, esq., occupies a pleasant station on the brow of an oval hill, north west of the village.—In Edward the third's time, it was the residence of R. Branscombe; but soon afterwards came to Sir John Wadham, the judge,

* Branscombe implies the meadowy vale among the hills.

of whose family, eight descents possessed this land. Of these, five were knights, and allied to many families of rank, such as were Plantagenet, Wrothesley, Bridges, Popham, Strangeways, and Tregarthine. The last N. Wadham, of Edge, married Dorothy, daughter of Sir W. Petre, but having no issue, the issue of his sisters became his heirs. Out of his vast property, land producing £3,800, and money £40,000, he founded and endowed Wadham College, Oxford. Edge descended to Sir J. Strangeways, and Sir J. Wyndham. The house is still respectable, and the walls of the ancient domestic chapel remain standing. Hole, the ancient seat of De la Hole, came to De la Holcombe, in whom it continued for seven descents, and Gilbert, the last of the family, sold it to Mr. E. Bartlett. The Church, dedicated to St. Winfred or St. Giles, is of very peculiar form, and as a range of similar corbels, rudely carved, run round below the eaves, it would appear that nearly the whole of the building is of the same date, and may with safety be assigned to the close of the twelfth century. It consists of a chancel, thirty feet by sixteen, and at the west end of it a square tower, sixteen feet aside by fifty feet high; a north and a south transept, each fifteen and a half feet square; and a nave, fifty-seven feet long by twenty wide, within the walls. The windows have all been renewed at various periods. The east window of the chancel, which is crossed by a transom, is thrown into five cinquefoil headed compartments, with tracery in the arch, in the perpendicular style. On one of the shields, forming corbals over, I observed the arms of the see of Exeter, at the time of its renewal, a sword in bend, surmounted by two keys, in bend sinister; and on the north side a saltier, the arms of Bishop Nevyll, who presided over the diocese

from 1438 to 1465, which marks the date of this window. The tower stands on rectangular piers, with heavy impost moulding for capitals, from which spring arches of the earliest pointed style. In it are five bells, on which are the dates 1669, 1671, 1696, 1747, and on the former, the words—"When I call, follow all." The following are the principal memorials of the dead within the walls:—The chancel. 1. A tablet, surmounted by an entablature, which is supported by Corinthian columns, for Anne, the daughter of John Mychell, of Cornwall, gent., and wife of Ellis Bartlett, of Branscombe, gent., who died Jan. 31, 1606, in the 47th year of her age. Arms—argent, two bars between three cinquefoils sable. 2. A tablet of wood, for Mr. Ellis Bartlett, buried Oct. 4, 1623, of Anne, his wife, daughter of R. Duke, of Otterton, esq., buried April 22, 1654, and Margaret, their daughter, buried July 4, 1640. Arms—On two shields, Bartlett, impaling argent, a fess between three lozenges, sable, each charged with a bird of the field. Bartlett impaling lozenge azure and or, within a border gules. 3. Tablet for Ellis Bartlett, of Hole, gent., May 22, aged 65, and his son William, Dec. 17, aged 25, 1744. 4. For Ellis Bartlett, gent., buried April 14, 1711. Arms—Bartlett impaling Barry of six, argent and sable, in chief three cinquefoils of the last. 5. Tablet for G. Woodward, esq., of Henton St. George, Somerset, June 1, 1741, aged 33. Arms—Argent, a saltier, between four birds, impaling sable, a fess wavy, between two stars, argent. 6. Tablet for John Leigh, May 28, 1732, aged 52, and Mrs. Mary Leigh, Aug. 7, 1746, aged 58. 7. Tablet for Mrs. Anne Churchill, Nov. 7, 1741, aged 23. 8. Tablet for W. Bampffield, of Beer, esq., May 8, 1754, aged 88, and Agnes, his wife, March 13, 1753, aged 85, and their two sons.

William, Nov. 19, 1747, and Edward, May 12, 1753, both in the forty-ninth year of their age. 9. A grave stone, for Edward Tym, A. M., vicar, June, 1650. 10. For Samuel, son of E. Bartlett, of Hole, gent., Oct. 29, 1704, aged 16, Arms—Bartlett, with a crescent for difference. 11. For Mrs. Eadith Bartlett, Nov. 6, 1737. 12. Mary, wife of W. Bartlett, of Hole, Feb. 8, 1751, aged 26. North transept. 1. A tablet, with an entablature and pediment, supported by doric columns. Arms—A chevron, between three black-moor's heads coupled, filletted; impaling three rams passant, a crescent for difference. 2. A tomb, similar to the last; upon its tablet are represented in relief, two figures of men kneeling, one of whom is habited in a gown, and the other in armour, with his helmet and gauntlet before him. On the dexter side, behind one of the men, is a woman kneeling, with fourteen children, and behind the other, a woman, with five children; the inscription is obliterated, but it is evident that the monument was erected by a widow for two husbands, as above these figures, are three coats of arms, the one in the centre being on a lozenge, and impaled with each of the others. Arms,—A lozenge quarterly of six. 1. Two crosses in saltier. 2. A chevron, between three escallops. 3. Semee of escallops, a lion, rampant. 4. A lion, rampant, within a bordure, charged with bezants, a label of three points. 5. On a bend, five roundles. 6. On a chevron, three fleurs-de-lis. 2. Shield on the dexter side, quarterly of four. 1 and 4. Two glaziers irons in saltier, between four peas, pendent within a bordure engrailed. 2. A buck's head, caboched. 3. A chevron, between three escallops, impaling the coat on the lozenge. 3. Shield, on the sinister side, quarterly of nine. 1. A chevron between three roses. 2. On a chevron,

three martlets. 3. On a chief, two stag's heads, caboched. 4. A chevron, between nine roundles. 5. Six lioncels, rampant, or 3. 2. 1. 6, per fess, indented a bend. 7. Barry, of eight, an eagle displayed. 8. A lion, rampant, or. 9. A bend lozengy, each charged with an ermine spot. To these coats is annexed the crest of the family of Wadham. A rose argent, leaved vert, seeded or. Floor of the south transept. A stone, on which is a Maltees cross, and "Orate p—dia. John Hedraunt." And on another, "Feb. Ano. Dom. 1600." Nave, south wall—A marble monument, for Robert Stuckey, esq., a magistrate, Dec. 9, 1768, aged 79. Mary Stuckey, Nov. 26, 1763, aged 82, and W. Stuckey, esq., barrister, their son, Oct. 2, 1775, aged 54. Arms—Quarterly, 1 and 4, per bend sinister, dove-tailed, or and azure, a lion, rampant,; 2 and 3 sable, two bars between three cinquefoils argent. with the crest—On a wreath or and azure, a demi lion, rampant; an esquire's helmet, and the motto, "Fortitudine et fidelitate." North wall of the nave—A handsome monument, for John Stuckey, esq., of Weston, a magistrate, Jan. 26, 1810, aged 91. On the floor, a grave stone, for Mary Stuckey, wife of R. Stuckey, of Weston, Esq., Nov. 26, 1763, aged 83, and another for Jane, wife of Robert Lee, Dec. 25, 1638. The ancient registers, which have been badly kept, begin with baptisms, 1539, marriages, 1545, and burials, 1578. The living is a peculiar of the dean and chapter of Exeter: first fruits, £18 15s. 10d. Yearly tenths, £1 17s. 7d. and by the last parliamentary returns, its real value was £190. The parish, which contains a population of 829 souls, lies in the hundred of Colyton, Deanry of Honiton, Archdeaconry and Diocese of Exeter. Weston and Dean, are villages in Branscombe; near the former, Mr.

Stuckey built a handsome Grecian villa ; but being destroyed by fire, many years ago, and never renewed, it now exhibits a solitary ruin. Before the conquest, Branscombe was given by T. Branscombe, to the Church of Exeter, and in Domesday Book is thus recorded :—"Terra episcopi Exon Branchescombe." The parish consists of such a variety of hills and intervening vallies, clothed in rich pasturage and hanging woods, that an ingenious stranger might suppose that fair Devon had sent specimens of her far-famed native beauties, to this sequestered nook of her eastern shore, for exhibition. Mr. Silley, the celebrated painter and grainer of Torquay, is a native of Branscombe ; and his father, an intelligent man, is the present host of the village Inn.

SALCOMBE REGIS.

This romantic place extends coastways between Branscombe and Sidmouth, for a distance of about three miles, and from south to north, it is about five miles in breadth, and contains a population of 449 souls. It lies in the hundred of East Budleigh, and is "numbered among the places which King Canute bequeathed to the church of St. Peter, Exeter, to expiate his father, Swain's barbarous cruelty to the church in these parts." Combe house is delightfully situated in the vale, about half a mile from Salcombe Creek, and commands a beautiful view of the ocean. In 1806, Abraham Follett, esq., had this house and estate from Mr. Cornish, in exchange for lands, lying west of Sidmouth, and at this time, it is the residence of Messrs. Follett, and their amiable sister,

Miss Follett, to whom my acknowledgments are here respectfully offered, for their civility to me during my inquiries in their neighbourhood. Slade house stands on the north-west extremity of a richly wooded vale, which declines southward to the sea. This estate, long vested in the families of Mitchell and Hearder,* with lower Dunscombe and Borough, for some time in the name of Drake, are now the property of William Leigh, esq. of Slade House.

Seed, a village in Salcombe, in which are many good houses, is situated on the east bank of the river Sid, adjoining, and constituting a suburb to Sidmouth.

The manor of Salcombe, about ten years ago, was sold by the dean and chapter of Exeter, to the freeholders of the parish.

The parish church, a most interesting object, as viewed from any of the surrounding eminences, stands in a dell, at the north-west extremity of the vale, about a mile from the creek, and is dedicated to St. Peter.† It is a small but well proportioned building, comprising a chancel, twenty-four feet by eleven feet six inches; a nave, twenty-seven feet long, by thirteen feet wide; with a north and a south aisle, each twenty-seven feet long, by twelve in width, within the walls, and a neat embattled tower, containing three bells, with a modern vestry, at the west end of the fabric. The nave communicates with the chancel and aisles, by pointed arches. The east window, divided by mullions into three cinquefoil-headed lights, is coped on the outside by a label, resting on corbels, which represent angels holding shields, with two keys in

* Sir Isaac Hearder, was Garter King at Arms.

† The liber regis, notices a chapel in Salcombe, dedicated to St. Clement and Mary Magdalene.

saltier, and a sword in pale.* Over this window is a circular ornament in stone, and under it some fragments of fret work, in the anglo Norman style, no doubt relics of a fabric of greater antiquity than the present; although some parts of it, particularly the north aisle, are in the style of the twelfth century. In the east end of this aisle, under a trefoil arch, is the piscina, and near to it the door which led to the rood loft. The principal records of mortality within the walls are as follows:—Chancel floor—Robert — ditto Elinor Pring, 6th — 1646. Judith, wife of Philip Avant, vicar, Dec. 16, 1672. Tablet—Joanna, daughter of ditto, June 20, 1695. Tablet—Hannah Boniface, of Sussex, April 10, 1827. Tablet—Honour, wife of J. Hall, vicar, Dec. 25, 1775. J. Hall, sixty-three years vicar, Dec. 3, 1791, aged 88. Tablet—W. Creswell, esq., April 6, 1812. The nave—Tablet—Edmund, son of B. Mitchell, Dec. 5, 1721, aged 18; W. Mitchell, June 18, 1734, aged 18; B. Mitchell, Oct. 19, 1734, aged 24; J. Mitchell, Aug. 17, 1737, aged 24; and their parents, B. Mitchell, Sept. 1, 1757, aged 73; Elizabeth, his relict, March 11, 1760, aged 83; and Thomas, by whom concluded the male issue of this family, Sep. 8, 1785, aged 77. His nephew was Iasac Hearder, garter T. C., 1785. Arms—a chevron, gules and sable, a chevron between three swans, argent, impaling argent, a bee-hive, surrounded by bees, sable. Tablet. Eleanor, relict of R. Lee, buried Dec. 3, 1729, aged 83. Robert Lee, buried Sept. 1, 1761, aged 24. Robert Lee, July 16, 1726, aged 84. Nave floor—David Parker, A.M., aged 45. Hannah Boniface, April 10, 1827. South aisle—Robert Lee, Nov. 12, 1785, aged 90. Mary, his wife, Nov. 18. 1785,

* Arms of the see of Exeter.

aged 77. James, their son, Dec. 6, 1788, aged 42. G. Lee, June, 1674, and Dorothy, his wife, March 1, 1684. Tablet—Hubert, eighth son of James Cornish, April 16, 1826. This vicarage stands in the queen's book at £14 12s. 8½d., and by the parliamentary returns is valued at £143 per annum.

SIDMOUTH.

* Sidmouth, Hygeias chosen seat,
Again receive me : let me greet
Thy ruddy cliffs, thy pebbly beach,
Thy broad majestic ocean reach ;
And streams that murmur thro' thy green retreat.

INCONSIDERABLE as this parish is in extent, being only three miles long by one in breadth, it contains much for admiration. On the north it is bounded by the parishes of Sidbury and Harford ; east by Salcombe Regis ; west by Otterton ; and south by the sea.

Sidmouth, or Sidmouth St. Nicholas,* William the Conqueror granted to the abbey in Normandy, denominated *Abbatia Montis Sancti Michaelis in periculo maris* ; but being afterwards given by King John to his priory of Otterton, it continued in that foundation until its suppression as an alien priory in 1414, when the manor of Sidmouth, with the other possessions and dependencies of the said priory, were annexed to Sion House, the foundation of Henry the fifth. In the *taxatio* of Edward the first, we have

* "Anciently Sidemew, and in writings of a later period, Sidmouth St. Nicholas. Sidde or Syd, from the British word Saeth, an arrow, has a reference to the activity of the river."

“Manerium de Otrintina, £15. 2s. 8d. Manerium de Sidemaie, £10.6s. 8d.”

Agnes, abbess of Sion House, by indenture, under the seal of this monastery, dated Feb. 5, 14th Henry the eighth, granted the manor and rectory to R. Gosnell, gent., for 99 years, at the yearly rent of £51. 17s. 7d.: and by old deeds, it appears that the manor and rectory reserved by the crown after the dissolution, were, in the reign of Elizabeth, granted under lease to Sir W. Peryam, knight, for his life. James the first, by lease, dated Dec. 21, in the third year of his reign, demised them to Christopher Mainwaring, at the annual rent of £54. 7s. 8d. Afterwards this manor was sold by C. Mainwaring, esq., to Sir E. Prideaux, bart.; and the same gentleman sold the great tithes of the parish to Wadham College, from which they were purchased by their present owner. Sir W. Prideaux, bart., held the manor in 1775, but soon after that period disposed of it to T. Jenkins, esq.,* from whom it descended to his nephew, the present lord paramount Thomas Jenkins, esq., who holds his courts leet and baron annually in Sidmouth.

The town occupies a most delightful station, between two projecting capes, on an incurvation of the English channel, about eleven miles west of the port of Axmouth, and the same distance from Exmouth. In the reign of Edward the third, it was a sea-port, and supplied the fleet of 1100 sail, with three ships, and sixty mariners as its quota. Leland represents Sidmouth as a

* This gentleman resided in Rome. Abanchiere ah corso Roma, and acquired a very considerable property by purchasing pictures in Italy, and selling them in England. His house was the general resort of the English, to whom he was generous and hospitable. They consulted him to their advantage in all matters of business and taste. Coins, statues, and pictures, he purchased with advantage to himself and his friends.

"fisschar town." Risdon says: "Since the surrender to the crown, Sidmouth is one of the chiefest fisher towns of the shire. In times past, it was a port of some account, now choked with chisel and sands by the vicissitude of the tides." Sir W. Pole, who wrote about the year 1630, calls it "a small market town;" and Lysons informs us, "that it was a borough and market town, governed by a portreeve, in the thirteenth century." Sidmouth, as a fishing town, up to a modern period, supplied, not only the neighbouring towns with the fry of the ocean, but also the whole country, to a considerable distance, and many of its inhabitants acquired fortunes in the Newfoundland and pilchard fisheries; but now this branch of commerce here is limited to such of the citizens of the liquid world, as are found in the bay, or immediate offing,—mackerel, salmon-peel, soles, mullet, dories, gurnets, turbot, &c. Several years before the close of the eighteenth century, Sidmouth had, by a happy combination of circumstances, exchanged its ancient character for that of a watering place of distinction. Its buildings and inhabitants were more than doubled from 1800 to 1821; and since the latter period, a very great augmentation in both respects has taken place. In 1801, the population was 1252; in 1811, 1683; in 1821, 2747; and in 1831, 3126. Previous to 1836, the town was defended from the assaults of the ocean only by a natural rampart of pebbles, which rose in successive stages from the low water mark, and varied in their relative heights and positions with almost every returning tide, by the force of the winds, or the strength of the frowning element; but in that year, its respectable inhabitants and gentry, with a spirit highly creditable to themselves, and

worthy of being recorded among the beauties of the shore, had a substantial sea wall erected, for the protection of their interesting town, at an expence of £2000 raised by voluntary subscription. It is one thousand three hundred and seventy feet long, by seventeen high, including the cope of one foot thick by two and a half wide. The wall, which extends the entire length of the esplanade is five feet thick at the base, and gradually narrowed to four feet at the top, and is supported by eighty-five counter forts, three feet deep, by two and a half wide. Two flights of circular steps descend from the promenade to the beach; each twelve in number, which are defended from the violence of the sea by triangular abutments, ingeniously included in the segment of the steps. The whole work contains 124385 feet of solid masonry.

The church, a well-built fabric, with a handsome tower, seventy-five feet high, stands nearly in the centre of the town, Within the walls it is thrown into a chancel, thirty-five feet long, by sixteen wide; a nave, fifty-six feet long, by eighteen wide, with parallel aisles, each sixteen feet wide, and a respectable vestry room. It is dedicated to St. Nicholas; and although the church of this place is known to have been granted by Bishop Marshall, who was appointed to preside over the diocese in 1191, to the abbey of St. Michael de monte in Normandy, the present edifice has no pretensions to any greater antiquity than the commencement of the fifteenth century. The four arches, communicating with the side aisles are pointed, and spring from circular laminated capitals. The chancel window is divided into four compartments, which terminate at the top in cinquefoils, and the arch is

enriched with florid tracery. On the remains of the painted and stained glass are represented our blessed Redeemer, bearing the cross, accompanied by the four evangelists, and a shield, five piles en saltier gules. In the south wall of the chancel, under a trefoil arch, surmounted by a crocketed canopy and pinnacles, is the ancient Piscina, with the baptismal basin. In 1822, the whole fabric underwent a reparation, when by the erection of side galleries, additional accommodation was procured for 260 persons, of which 160 are free sittings. With the exception of £200 contributed by the society for building and enlarging churches and chapels, the whole of the expense of this valuable public improvement was generously borne by the Rev. W. Jenkins, the benevolent and highly esteemed incumbent. The memory of the following persons are preserved by monuments and tablets within the building:— J. A. Duff, esq., son of Admiral Robert Duff, of Logic, Aberdeenshire, March 3, 1777. The Rev. C. Hardy, Dec. 3, 1821. John Home, esq., of Edinburgh, May 24, 1799. W. F. Forster, esq., Aug. 28, 1801. Maria, wife of F. Addis, esq., of London, May 16, 1714. Mrs. H.E. Slessor, relict of General Slessor, Nov. 12, 1834. C. Watson, esq., of Saughton, Mid Lothian, June 2, 1804. N. Marchant, esq., Feb. 23, 1804. T. Maria Rickards, Oct. 22, 1810. A. Crawley, esq., Dec. 8, 1810. Catharine, wife of G. Slackpoole, esq., Oct. 28, 1809. C. Norris, esq., Jan. 27, 1803. W. H. Bigby, esq., Feb. 10, 1809. Catharine Hay, daughter of Sir John Hay, March 7, 1813. C. T. Alston, esq., Nov. 10, 1810. H. M. Whorwood, esq., Oct. 24, 1806. Mary, wife of R. Lisle, esq., of Acton House, Northumberland, Feb. 21, 1791. This is a handsome oval tablet of white marble, thus inscribed:—

Blest with soft airs from health restoring skies,
 Sidmouth, to thee the drooping patient flies;
 Ah! not unfailing is thy port to save,
 To her thou gav'st no refuge but a grave:
 Guard it, mild Sidmouth, and revere its store,
 More precious, none shall ever touch thy shore.

M. J. Powlett, daughter of Lord Bolton, Feb. 24, 1806. Caroline Deffles, Jan. 22, 1824. G. Bradshaw, esq., Dec. 26, 1830. S. Cowley, esq., June 29, 1811. J. Minshall, (a neat Ionic monument,) Nov. 1658. The Rev. O. Courtrice, 22 years vicar, aged 49, 1703, and the Rev. John Courtrice, (his son,) 57 years vicar, aged 81, 1766. John Hunter, esq., June 27, 1812. Walter Harlewin, esq., an ancient monument. inscribed with the family arms. James Currie, M.D., F.R.S., of Liverpool, (a native of Scotland,) Aug. 31, aged 49, inscribed with these pathetic lines:—

The milder virtues which the friend endear,
 The soften'd worth which makes affection's tear.
 And all that brightens in life's social day,
 Lost in the shades of death may pass away:
 Fast comes the hour when no fond heart shall know,
 How lov'd, oh! Currie, was the dust below.
 Here cease the triumphs which the grave obtains,
 The man may perish, but the sage remains.
 Freedom and peace shall tell to many an age,
 Thy warning counsels, thy prophetic page.
 Art taught by thee, shall o'er the burning frame,
 The healing freshness pour, and bless thy name:
 And genius, proudly while to fame she turns,
 Shall twine thy laurels with the wreath of Burns.

This vicarage, which lies in the archdeaconry and diocese of Exeter, is valued in the queen's book at £18 15s. 5d.; and by the last parliamentary returns, its annual value is £481. Patron, the Rev. W. Jenkins.

The Unitarian chapel stands at the entrance of the town from Honiton, and was erected about the year 1710, but its first minister, Dr. B. Stevenson, was not appointed until 1715. Since that

period, the following pastors have been chosen by the congregation, which is respectable:—W. Palk, 1719; W. West, 1731; J. Brown, 1738; J. Lacey, 1740; J. Berry, 1742; B. Kiddel, 1750; J. Hogg, 1759; W. Chapman, 1772; J. Smith, 1778; W. Hughes, 1784; E. Butcher, 1798; M. L. Yeates, 1820; N. S. Heineken, 1825; W. Jamee, 1830; T. Baker, 1832. The Rev. Robert Gibson is the present minister. On the walls are two tablets:—1. For John Carslake, esq., of Colmaton, 1815, and his sister Elizabeth. 2. For E. Butcher, April 14, 1822, aged 65.; and a record of the following benefactions:—Mrs. J. Gundrey, £100.; F. Folaquier, £50.; A. Follett, gent. £50.; J. Carslake, esq., £100; Mrs. Leigh, £100.

The independent Chapel was built in 1811, and is calculated for the accommodation of 400 persons. The congregation is respectable, and the Rev. J. Dean is the present pastor. Here is a cenotaph, to the memory of the Rev. D. Parker, A.M., March 15, 1832, aged 45. It appears that the dissenters have flourished here, and at Sidbury, ever since the time of Charles the second.

The York, Marine, and Bedford hotels; the baths, and the extensive public library, reading rooms, and billiard room, of Mr. Cawsey, are delightfully situated on the beach, commanding sublime and beautiful views of the sea, and the mountain ranges, on either side of the town, as they rush in precipitous majesty down into the dark blue waters of the extended main. The London Inn, most respectably conducted by Mr. Gullock, stands nearly in the centre of Sidmouth, and possesses every requisite accommodation for the public as an inn or posting-house. The daily coaches stop here. The commercial Inn of Mr. Eveleigh, situated in the same street with the London Inn, is on a less ostentatious scale, but

justly esteemed a convenient and comfortable secondary house of entertainment. Saddle horses, gigs, &c., are to be had here at moderate charges.

The market house, a modern edifice, is open every day for the sale of butcher's meat, fish, and vegetables. Near the beach, in the market place, along the principal streets, and in various other parts of the town, are respectable shops, of every description; of these we may particularize, the stationary and printing establishment of Mr. Harvey, who is agent for the Bridport Branch Bank; the Sidmouth public library, reading and billiard rooms of Mr. Cawsey, bookseller, fancy stationer, and dealer in musical instruments; Farrant and Sons, cabinet-makers; the chemist and drug establishment of Mr. Pullin; Mr. R. Farrant, grocer; Mr. J. Farrant, ironmonger, &c.; Mr. Gale, Mr. Hall, and Mr. Isles, linen and woollen drapers; Mr. Hook, Mr. Jones, Mr. Russell, and Mr. Salter, bakers and confectioners, &c.—Professional gentlemen—Solicitors: J. G. Jenkins, esq., R. R. Drake, Stevens, Lester, and Dark, esquires.—Surgeons: G. Gidley, esq.; T. Hodge, esq.; J. D. Jeffery, esq.; T. H. Mogridge, esq.; G. S. Stocker, esq.; A. Hutchinson, esq., M.D.

The Sidmouth bench of magistrates consists of the Right Hon. Lord Rolle; the very Rev. Dr. Cockburn, Dean of York; the Rev. H. Fellowes; the Ven. Archdeacon Moore Stevens; the Rev.—Smith; G. Smith, esq.; J. C. Cornish, esq.; J. Carslake, esq.

The streets are capacious, clean, well paved, and the buildings substantial and respectable. Independent of the numerous shopkeepers, tradesmen, and others, who let apartments to visitors, commodious and handsomely furnished lodging-houses, calculated for the reception of families of distinction, have been increasing in number and

variety for many successive years past, and continue to keep pace with the increasing popularity of the town as a watering place. Of this class are nearly all the buildings on the beautiful line of the Esplanade, the whole of Clifton Terrace, Potbury's Buildings, and Denby Row; as well as many elegant detached cottages and villas, in open parts of the suburbs, such as High Bank, May Cottage, the Peak, and Mount Sid Cottages, the Sidlands, Villa Verda, &c. The seats, mansions, and villas, of the resident gentry, add vastly to the charms of Sidmouth. They are the gems of the vale, and from every point of its superabounding eminences, the eye rests with delight on the uniform beauty of their construction, and the sweetly discriminated outlines of the elegantly laid-out grounds, by which they are generally encompassed. The greatest object of curiosity and attraction in Sidmouth, is Knowle Cottage, the marine villa of T. L. Fish, esq. It was erected in 1805, by Lord de Spencer, and originally consisted of 40 apartments; but the present munificent owner has, by his chaste and elegant improvements and embellishments, diminished the number of its rooms, and rendered it one of the most picturesque and enchanting villas imaginable. The suit of drawing rooms, one hundred feet in length, contains 76 tables, which are chastely vermiculated with gold, and covered with a profuse variety of vases and ornamental figures in the finest Dresden china, &c. In other parts of these beautiful rooms, we have exquisite specimens of the taste and ingenuity of man, in bronzes, filigree work, with French clocks and music pieces, in Dresden and oriental biscuit china; to which, the brilliant light introduced by handsome windows of stained and painted glass, gives an effect that is highly ma-

gical. In the breakfast room are glass cases, which exhibit an astonishing variety of choice fossils, minerals, shells, and corals; comprehending some specimens of malekite, yellow topaz, and amethyst, which, for quality and magnitude are considered matchless in this country. Here are also the crucifixion in ivory, delicately carved; the cross and its base is of agate. On the glass of the large Gothic windows, are some handsome paintings; viz. the Eddystone Light House, and views on the Rhine; and on ten tables, there is a magnificent display of the productions of nature and the works of art, comprehending some elegant pieces of lapis-luzuli, and Harding's pictures on ivory, of Christ crowned with thorns, Rebecca, from Ivanhoe, the Virgin, Mary, Queen of Scots, Chatellard. From the centre of the ceiling is pendent, a superb chandelier of the best Dresden, and an unique clock, with Harding's baptism, confirmation, marriage, the sacrament; four pieces taken from the works of Sir W. Scott, and the portraits of T. L. Fish, esq., and his father, by the same artist; and some fine specimens of white, red, and zebra coral, terminates the magnificent spectacle within. The building is in the form of a quadrangle, with an upper and lower corridor; in the recess of the latter, stands an elegant figure of Venus, in Italian marble, supported by a pedestal of porphyry; and in the former, which is sixty feet long, and contains twenty-seven tables, which are crowned with the choicest articles of vertu, Dresden, and other china, are two moveable mandarines. A verandah, three hundred and fifteen feet long, by twelve wide, skirts the eastern fronts of the fabric, which is supported by oak-pollard, invested with ivy, woodbine, myrtles, roses, and variegated creepers, including numerous flower

stands, with geraniums and other exotics, and thirty-four china vases, containing luxuriant balsams. There are at this time, not less than four thousand plants within the verandah alone. This cottage, as its name imports, stands on a beautiful knolle, which rises two hundred feet above the level of the sea, and one hundred feet above the embattled crest of the church tower; and is encompassed by charmingly laid-out grounds, which occupy an enriched area of upwards of ten acres. In the upper lawn are marble busts of Homer and Hebe, by Canova; a fountain, composed of Babbicombe marble, in a basin, connected with which are gold and silver fish; two handsome green china vases, on pillars; many globes of gold and silver fish; innumerable plants, of rare sorts, and luxuriant growth, of which I only mention the following:—The *Cereus Pentagonus* of South America; fir palms of the East Indies; orange and lemon trees, which bear fruit in abundance; fan palms, moluccas, sycus palms, orange-leaved and other myrtles; the dragon plant, from South America; the *Zamia Horrida*, from the Cape of Good Hope; the *Clethra arborea* from North America; the *Fuchsias globosa*, *Gracilis coccinea*, from South America; the *Dracæna australes*, and the *Yucca alœfolia*, from the West Indies. The conservatory, containing a rich store of rare plants, commands the admiration of all visitors; after passing which, and a fine *laurus camphora* tree, we descend to the lower lawn, under a Gothic canopy of ivy, clematis, woodbine, and roses; it vies with the other in elegant and costly decorations, a Gothic alcove, lined with coral, shells, and other marine productions, and furnished with china vases, containing botanical rarities: a fountain, out of which, from a bed of coral, the

water, in innumerable spouts, rises in the balmy air to the height of forty feet ; a domed grotto, adorned with costly shells ; an oval basin, with gold and silver fish ; an American aloe, a century old ; a splendid hydrangea, sixty feet in circumference ; a weeping pillar ; black swans, from Botany bay, and a domed aviary, containing a collection of rare foreign birds, and surrounded with flourishing balsams, palms, &c. constitute some of the objects of attraction in this part of the grounds. In the entrance park are Al Pacos, Gazelles, Indian buffaloes, Cape sheep, Georgian axis, and other deer ; antelopes, Cashmere goats, Marmoset monkeys and kangaroos. Among the birds are emeus from New Holland, seven feet high ; pelicans of the wilderness, parrots, gold and silver pheasants, Peruvian cockatoos, paroquets, demoiselle birds, crown birds from Brazil, macaws, American, French, and English part-ridges, a stork of Egypt, Virginian and cardinal nightingales, and fire birds from Africa. Mr. Fish, the opulent owner of this admirable and interesting assemblage of beauties and curiosities, generously throws open his gates, for the admission of the public, every Monday, during his annual sojourn here, from July to October ; a circumstance that proves highly beneficial to Sidmouth, owing to the immense influx of visitors which are drawn thither from every part of the country to see a spectacle that is at once calculated to excite curiosity, improve the taste, and command admiration.

Peak house, the seat of E. Louseda, esq., is delightfully situated on the brow of the western hill, surrounded by extensive pleasure grounds, which overlook the town, and command views of the sea as far as the eye can carry, and of the richly diversified landscape to the eastward,

beyond the point of Portland. Anxious as I have been to give descriptive notices of the houses of the respectability and gentry, I now find that for want of room, I must forego that pleasure, and satisfy the almost irresistible propensity which I feel, by merely naming the principal seats.

Sidmouth House, the seat of Mrs. Lee. The Marino, the seat of the Rev. J. Hobson; Withe-bey Cottage, the property of Major Cunningham, Cotland House, the residence of Mrs. Colonel Bradshaw. Helens, the residence of P. N. James, Esq. Springfield Cottage, the residence of Mrs. Barnard. Cotmanton,* the residence of Mrs. Stuart. New Cotmanton, the residence of Mrs. and Miss Bethell. Asherton,† occupied by Mrs. Hancock. Eglantine Cottage, the residence of Mrs. Rose. Rosemount, occupied by Mrs. Ximnes. Audley, once the residence of Lady Audley, the property of the Misses Dawson. Powis Cottage, the abode of Miss Ridout. Broadways, the seat of Colonel Slessor. Clermont, lately the residence of F. Baker, Esq. Belle-Vue, seated on an eminence, the residence of J. Harrison, esq. Ivy Cottage, the residence of Mrs. R. Dawson. Rose Cottage, the residence of the Rev. M. H. Mogridge. Lime Park, the beautiful seat of Lieut. Gen. Walker. Arcot House, a seat of Lieut. Gen. Rumley, situated on a fine elevation, which embraces extensive views

* Cotterington, which I take to have been the ancient name of this place, was sold by the Duke family, to W. Harlewin, esq.; whose family flourished here as far back as the time of Edward the fourth.

† Nicholas de Asherton gave this place to R. de Kingstone, with Isabell, his daughter, about the first year of Henry the third; whose family conveyed it in 44 Edward the third, to J. Bittlesgate, whose family, in the time of Henry the sixth, sold it to J. Harlewin, who made it the place of his abode; and his family held it until W. Harlewin disposed of it to its present possessor, J. Carslake, esq., to whom New Cotmanton also belongs.

of both sea and land to a great distance. Radway Cottage,* the seat of J.G. Jenkins, esq., solicitor. Woodlands, anciently Oldhays and Spring Gardens, the property of S. Newdick, esq. The residence of H. Carew, esq. The vicarage, an ancient but elegantly-improved and beautified seat, the residence of the Rev. W. Jenkins, A. M. Woolbrook Glen,† the pleasant residence of Mrs. General Baynes. In this sweetly-retired villa, the Duke and Duchess of Kent, with their amiable daughter, our present beloved Sovereign, resided, during their sojourn here in 1820 ; when, to a nation's grief, his Royal Highness, after a short illness, died. Sid Abbey, the residence of J. Clark, esq. Hill's Cottage, the seat of C. Cornish, esq.

THE VALE.

Thy woodlands and waters, thy morland and dell,
And thy rocks' beetling crags which repel the wild seas,
Encharm the fix'd eye with a witching-like spell,
Whilst health woos thy fragrance, and dwells in thy breeze.

This small but truly delightful portion of the scenery of the shore is so celebrated and well known, that I need only give a faint outline of its beauties. The geographical position of the spot is in 50 degrees 30 minutes of north latitude, and 3 degrees west of the meridian of Greenwich,

* Radway was granted by Nicholas Abbot, of St. Michael's Mount, in periculo maris, to Adam de Radway, in 1272, and continued in that name, until Janet, daughter of N. Radway, brought it to John Hake, in Henry the sixth's reign ; and Janet, daughter of Hake, brought it to John Cook, of Ottery ; and in Sir W. Pole's time, it was vested in the Rev. W. Jenkins.

† Ullebrook was granted to Radway in these words :—" Abbas sancti Michael. Noverint, &c. Nos tradidisse et concess. Ade de Radway pro Homagio et Service. su. duos ferlingos terr. in Ullebrooke in paroch. de Sidemew, reddend, annuatim sex solid. per quatuor anni termin. salvo Regal. Servic. Dat. anno dom. 1272.— This land once belonged to Oldhays, and was purchased by T. Jenkins, esq., and attached to the manor.

and the mean temperature of its climate, during the summer months, is three degrees warmer than in London. In winter, the excess rises to 5 degrees, but on the advent of spring it declines to one. From the east and westerly winds, the beautiful vale of Sidmouth is screened by lofty semi-circular ranges, crowned with foliage, through which grey rocks here and there protrude, and diversify their appearance. To the north and north-east, it terminates in the picturesque hills of Honiton and Gittisham, which appear in that direction on the horizon, like clouds in the van of a storm; and the south extremity of the deep depression with the town of Sidmouth, opens boldly on the ocean, between the headland rocks of Salcombe, and the Peak, which rise more than six hundred feet above the sea at low water. From each of the loftier points of the encircling contour of hills, the fine peculiarities of the vale, and its varied and numerous embellishments, are discriminated with the most brilliant distinctness, and a picture more richly fraught with all that is beautiful and interesting, cannot be easily conceived. Grove-encircled mansions, with sweetly laid-out lawns, fruitful gardens and orchards, corn fields, green pastures, connected with leaf-crowned heights, broad hedge-rows, like as many flowery zones, intersecting each other, with the river Sid, by wanton vagaries, and here and there affording a mirror to the sun on its downward course to the gleaming expanse, all by a continuity of deep and varied foliage, flowing into one delicious whole, and constituting a most agreeable and enchanting landscape.

The high cliffs are composed of sand, tinged with the red oxide of iron, and in part calcareous; which, together with the uncommon fertility of the soil, render the air peculiarly mild and salu-

brious at an early period of the spring ; so that in traversing the parish roads and numerous lanes and walks in the immediate vicinity of the town, during this sweet season, the deep banks covered with flowers and vegetable mosaic, the umbrageous trees, and the transparent streams gushing from the mountain urn, enlivened and diversified by delicious masses of ivy, holly, myrtles, laurel, and other evergreens, the traveller is gratified, beyond conception, with the fragrance that abounds in the air, and the beauty which covers the earth. During my first visit to Sidmouth, in the spring of 1835, I was peculiarly struck and delighted with the pleasing characteristics of the place :—

The season was glorious, and light through the trees,
 Play'd the sun-shine and rain-drops, the birds and the breeze ;
 The landscape, outstretching, in loveliness lay,
 On the lap of the year, in the beauty of May.
 Then the queen of the spring, as she pass'd down the vale,
 Left her robe on the trees, and her breath on the gale ;
 And the smile of her promise gave joy to the hours,
 And flush in her footsteps sprang herbage and flowers.

The charitable benefactions left to the poor of the parish of Sidmouth, are now under the control of the following trustees :—The Rev. W. Jenkins, the Rev. J. Hobson, E. Louseda, esq., G. Manning, esq., T. Hodge, sen. esq.; T. S. Hodge, jun. esq., Mr. W. G. Harris, Mr. J. Farrant, Mr. K. Farrant, Mr. W. N. Gale, Mr. J. Hook. A. Isaack, by will, of Aug. 13, 1639, gave £100. The Rev. J. Minshull, rector, by will, dated Nov. 26, 1663, after his just debts and some legacies being paid, directed that the whole of the remainder of his property, which ultimately amounted to £360, should be appropriated for certain charitable purposes. A house, for some time used as a market house in the High Street,

supposed to have been given by J. Arthur, in the twenty-sixth year of Eliz. and W. Slade gave £10 in 1640. By deed of Oct. 20, 1641, W. Lee, and two others granted a tenement and other lands, called Brewer's Park, in Sidmouth. The Rev.—Burroughs, of Gittisham, by will, gave £40. John Conant, by will, £50. The Rev. J. Curtis, by will, gave £10. Mr. O. Cowley, by will, dated, Feb. 10, 1779, gave £50. By deed of Sep. 29, 18 Charles the first, a messuage and lands of forty-five acres, in the parish of Dawlish, (donor's name unknown) were conveyed to the trustees of the Sidmouth charities. The last deed of enfeoffment, is dated in November, 1806.

OTTERTON.

THE town of Otterton* stands on the descent of a fine elevation, at the south-west extremity of that parish, three miles west of Sidmouth, three miles north of Budleigh Salterton, and eight from Exmouth. It lies within the hundred of East Budleigh; and on the south the parish is bounded by the sea, by the sweetly meandering river Otter on the west, and on the east by the parish of Sidmouth; its greatest length being about five miles, and breadth, something more than two miles. On the south side its extremity presents to the ocean perpendicular cliffs of great height; and from thence the entire surface of the parish is thrown into a mighty slope of swells and

* In the grant of Henry the 8th, and in the parish register, it is Otterton, in Domesday, it is Otrit—"terra Baldwini vicecomitis, Otrit," and in the Ledger book, Otriton, a town on the Otter. Leland calls it "A praty fischartoun, that standeth on the east side of the haven, about a mile from Ottermouth."

depressions, which decline westward, and terminate in the Otter.

The great manor of Otterton, in the conqueror's time, consisted of five hides of land, each hide five ploughlands; and every ploughland one hundred and sixty acres. It was then vested in the Abbey of St. Michael de Monte in periculo maris, but these lands being taken from the Normans, by Act of Parliament, in Henry the Fourth's time, they were granted by Henry the Sixth to the abbey of Sion House.

King John founded a priory here for four monks, which he gave to the before-mentioned abbey of St. Michael, in Normandy; but as an alien, it was suppressed in 1414, and its possessions annexed by Henry the fifth to his foundation of Stonhouse, in Middlesex. By this royal monastery the manor of Otterton was held until the final dissolution of religious houses by Henry the eighth, when it was purchased by R. Duke, esq., then a clerk of the Augmentation Court, for the sum of £1727. 4s. 2d.,† who, as we are told by Sir W. Pole, "builded a fayre howse in this place, upon an ascent over the river Otter, which driveth his milles underneath the howse." Duke's estate in Otterton, consisting of 7000 acres, and at that time of the annual value of £6,000, was sold for the sum of £90,000 but the purchaser having failed to make good his bar-

† Henricus 8 &. Sciatis quod nos pro summa mille septingentarum viginti librarum quatuor solidorum & duorum denariorum septem legalis monete Anglie & dedimus concessimus &c. Rich. Duke clerico, concilii nostri, & Eliz. uxori Ejusilla dominia & maneria nostra de Otterton et Budlegh al dict. East budlegh cum omnibus &c. quæ nuper Monasterio sancti salvatoris & sanctarum Marie Virginis et Brigitte, de Syon in comitatu nost. Middlesex modo dissoluto dudum spectabant &c. habendum et tenendum adeo plene ac integre, in tam amplis modo et forma, prout Agnes Jorden nuper abba tissa dicti nuper monasterii, et habuerunt, tenuerunt. &c.

gain, Denys Rolle, esq., father of the present Lord Rolle, became the owner of this property on Sep. 24, 1785. The annual value of real property in the parish in 1815, was £6086, which, with only two or three trifling exceptions, belongs to the Right Hon. Lord Rolle. Otterton is a market town, consisting chiefly of one long street of thatched houses, and the population of the entire parish is now about 1778, chiefly employed in the business of husbandry.

The church, whose patron saint is St. Michael, stands on a rising ground at the south-west end of the town, commanding extensive views of the beautiful vales of Budleigh and Bicton, with the wavy hills to the westward, for a great distance. The building is composed of a nave, forty feet by twenty-four; a chancel, twenty feet by twenty; a south aisle, with a porch, forty feet by twenty; a chantry or chapel, and a fine embattled tower, which, from many distant parts of the subjacent landscape, constitutes a picturesque object, amid the elevated scenery by which it is embosomed. The enrichments of the nave, and the character of the pointed arches, communicating with the aisle, and the cinquefoil-headed lights and perpendicular tracery of the windows, assign the erection of those parts of the fabric to the close of the fourteenth or commencement of the fifteenth century. Among the bosses and foliage which ornament the intersections of the roof, I observed "R. C." and "C. T." The font, which rests on a column of trefoil-headed stone panels, is ornamented with quatrefoils. The situation of the tower at the east end of the building, and the abrupt finish of the walls in that direction, indicate that the great choir of the monks must have been removed, and that the present edifice is only a remnant of the ancient fabric. At the east end of the aisle was an ancient chapel. The

piscina remains; and near to it the stone tomb of James Courtenay, the younger son of J. Courtenay, esq., of Cheriton, Sept. 6, 1593. The enclosure called the Nuns' Court derived its name from having once been the property of the abbess and convent of Sion house: nuns never resided here. The monuments and records of mortality within the church are as follows:—1. A pediment supported by three columns, and surmounted by a tilting helmet, dated 1589—no inscription. 2. A loose brass plate, bearing figures of three men and five women, kneeling, and inscribed “Sarah præcharissima uxor Roberti Duke, ar. filia et cohæres Rici Reynell de Creedy, ar. obiit 2^o. Feb. An^o. 1641. Reliquit fili os 3, as 5.” Arms—For Duke, parted per fess, argent and azure three garlands counterchanged; for Reynell, argent masonry and sable a chief indented of the last. 3. A brass plate, inscribed “Memoriae sacrum Rici Duke, ar qui obiit 19, Ap. Ano. Dom. 1641. Reliquit fili os 3, as 2.” The figures of the children are given, and a skull, an hour-glass, and “Omniscar, fænum,” with the arms of Duke. 4. A brass plate—R. Duke, July 10, 1740, aged 52: arms of Duke. 5. A tablet for W. Simmons, vicar sixty years, Oct. 9, 1782, aged 86; and Mary, his wife, May 28, 1778, aged 87. 6. Mr. R. Crossing, twenty-seven years pastor, Jan. 5, 1689, aged 57. Arms—Or, on a chevron azure, between three crosslets, as many bezants. 7. H. Austen, May 2, 1706, aged 73. 8. A tablet erected in 1745, recording gifts left by will, &c. to the poor. R. Duke, esq., £100.; H. Austen, £100. &c.

The registers, beginning with 1558, records twenty deaths in 1611, to which the word ‘pest,’ is annexed. The chapel of La Hederland, within this manor, and the parish church was on Aug. 31, 1205, appropriated by Bishop Marshall, to St.

Michael's Abbey, in Normandy, to assist in entertaining pilgrims, &c. 'ad peregrinorum et hospitum susceptonem.' This grant was confirmed by Bishop Brewer, and approved of by Langton, Archbishop of Canterbury, on Sept. 25, 1825.* This vicarage, which lies in the diocese and archdeaconry of Exeter, is valued in the queen's book at £22.; and by the parliamentary report, its annual value is £312. The Right Hon. Lord Rolle is patron, and the Ven. Archdeacon Moore Stevens,† is the present highly-esteemed incumbent.

Adjoining the church, stands the remains of the ancient manor house, now used as the parish school-house. Over its entrance porch is a shield, quarterly 1 and 4. (Duke) 2 and 3 per pale wavy. Crest, a demy griffin, segeant holding a wreath. When the Otterton property was sold in 1785, the mansion house is represented as an elegant and commodious residence, suited for the accommodation of a family of fortune; having offices, coach-houses, hot-houses, pigeon-houses, walled gardens, orchards, a park with 150 deer, carp-ponds, salt water ponds for the preservation of soles, plaice, oysters, and other sea fish. In the lower part of the town, is a grove of very fine chesnut trees, and a limpid stream runs through the street, in front of the houses.

Richard Martin, recorder of London, a celebrated linguist and poet, was born here, about the year 1570.

* See the *Custumale de Otterton*, in which is recorded the agreement between Richard de Albo Rivo, prior of Otterton, and Robert, vicar of the church, respecting the parochial tithes, dated Feb. 5, 1817.

† To this excellent gentleman, I offer my very grateful acknowledgments for the courtesy with which he was pleased to receive me, as a humble man in search of knowledge, when I visited his parish, on Dec. 23, 1836.

BICTON.

Now see how Bicton beautifully lifts
 Her bank, high peering o'er the eccentric stream !
 Mark how the pensile woodlands from the brink
 Of the clear labrinthian waters, clothe
 The slopes ;—one deep and dark and graceful sheet
 Of verdure, climbing to the aerial ridge.

PASSING across the river from Otterton, by a bridge of three arches, we at once enter on the beautifully-emparadised grounds of Bicton ; and by a devious walk, through some luxuriant meadows, soon reach the parish church, the gardens, and ornamental inclosures of this rich and highly-interesting domain. The church is an object of uncommon solemnity, standing in silence and solitude, away from the habitations of man, and encompassed by a deep foliage of forest trees, interweaving their ample boughs, and flowing in beauty and simplicity into the majestic scenery of the park, it is, perhaps, impossible to imagine a fitter situation for the worship of the great God, or the contemplation of his works ; and thus secluded, thus encircled by wood and verdure, we might almost fancy ourselves amid the fairy groves of Rousseau's Ermenonville. It is a neat structure, dedicated to the Holy Trinity, and at one time served as a chapel of ease to the church of Otterton ; with the exception, however, of the lancet window of the chancel, the present building claims no greater antiquity than the beginning of the sixteenth, or close of the fifteenth century. It consists of a nave, thirty feet long by fifteen in width, a chancel, fifteen feet square, a south aisle or chapel, twelve feet square, and a north aisle, forty-five feet in length, by twelve long within

the walls. The windows are neatly divided into lights, terminating in cinquefoil heads, and perpendicular tracery. The front of the gallery presents foliage and flowers carved in oak. The altar screen, supporting a good painting, is of oak, handsomely carved in foliage, fruit and flowers; but as it obscures part of the chancel window, its presence in this place is intrusive. The painting represents our blessed Redeemer, sinking beneath the cross:—

If he the scorn of wicked men,
With patience did sustain,
Becomes it those for whom he died,
To murmur or complain? Heb. xii, 3.

The dormitory of the Rolle family* being in

* This family was originally of Dorsetshire, and the first of its members who removed into Devon, was George Rolle, esq., a merchant of great opulence and repute in the city of London, who became an extensive purchaser of abbey lands at the time of the reformation. He styled himself of Stevenstone, Devon, in his will, dated Nov. 11, 1552. He married thrice, and had twenty children. John, who succeeded at Stevenstone, and whose male line ceased in 1647, when that estate devolved upon the grandson of his next brother George, ancestor of Edward Rolle. Christopher, died unmarried. Henry, whose grandson Henry Rolle, an eminent lawyer, was lord chief justice, and one of the council of state, during the first years of the commonwealth, from 1648 to 1655. Robert Maurice, the second son of George Rolle, esq., married Margaret, daughter and heiress of E. Marracs, esq., of Marracs, in the county of Cornwall, and was succeeded by his son Andrew Rolle, esq., of Marracs, whose son, Sir J. Rolle, succeeded to the estates of his ancestor, upon failure of the male line of John Rolle, esq., of Stevenstone, his great uncle, in 1647. This gentleman was attached to Charles the Second, and accompanied that monarch to London from Holland, at his restoration, and was made a knight of the Bath, at the king's subsequent coronation. Sir John afterwards represented Devon in parliament, and was a leading member of the house. He married Florence, daughter and co-heiress of Dennis Rolle, esq., by whom he had four sons and two daughters. He died at an advanced age in 1706, one of the wealthiest commoners in England, and was succeeded by his grandson Robert Rolle, esq., M.P.; at whose decease, without issue, in 1719, the estates devolved upon his brother John Rolle, esq., M. P., for

the church of St. Giles, near Great Torrington, in which parish, their ancient seat of Stevenstone lies, but few of that illustrious race have been buried here. In the south aisle or chapel, stands a handsome monument of black and white marble, with the effigies, at full length, of Denys Rolle, esq., his lady and child, richly habited, surmounted by a pediment, on which we have the following inscription from the pen of Dr. Fuller.

His earthly part within this tomb doth rest,
 Who kept a court of honour in his breast:
 Birth, beauty, wit and wisdom sat as peers,
 Till death mistook his virtues for his years;
 Or else heaven envy'd earth so rich a treasure,
 Wherein too fine the ware, too scant the measure.
 His mournful wife, her love to shew in part,
 This tombe built here, a better in her heart,
 Sweet babe, his hopefull heyre, (heav'n grant this boon,)
 Live but so well, but oh! dye not too soon.

Obyt Anno Dom. 1638. Ætatis 24. Reliquit fili, um unum as quingue. The tomb is ornamented with three shields, charged as follows:—
 1. Rolle, or, on a fesse dancettee, between three

Devon. This gentleman was offered an earldom by Queen Anne's last ministry, but declined the honour. He married Isabella, daughter of Sir W. Walter, of Saresden, in Oxfordshire, by whom he had issue, Henry John, who changed his surname to Walter, upon inheriting the estates of his uncle, M.P. of Devon, died in 1779. William succeeded Dennis, father of the present peer. Mr. Rolle died May 6, 1730, and was succeeded by his eldest son Henry Rolle, esq., M.P. of Devon, who was elevated to the peerage, by the title of Lord Rolle, Baron of Stevenstone, on Jan. 8, 1747, but dying unmarried in 1759, the dignity expired, while the estates devolved upon his brother, Dennis Rolle, esq., who died July 25, 1797, leaving issue, John, who had been created a peer Jan. 20, 1796, and is the present Lord Rolle, Baron of Stevenstone, who married first, July 22, 1778, Judith Maria, only daughter and heiress of H. Wallrond, esq., of Bovey House, Devon, who died Oct. 1, 1820, without issue; and secondly, Sep. 24, 1822, to the Hon. Louisa Trefusis, youngest daughter of Robert George William, 15th Baron Clinton.

billets, azure, charged with as many lions rampant of the field, and three bezants; impaling Poulett, sable, three swords in file, points downward argent, pomelled and hilted or. 2. As first. 3. Quarterly of ten.—1. Rolle as before. 2. Dennis—ermine, three battle axes gules. 3. Argent a cross moline azure, on a chief of the last three stars or. 4. Giffard—Sable, three fusils in fess ermine. 5. Brewer—Gules, two bends wavy or. 6. Buckerell—Sable, two bucks trippant argent. attired or, between nine bezants, 7. Argent a bend, per bend indented or, and ermine cotised argent and or. 8. Sable, a fess checky, or and gules between three crosses patees of the second. 9. Azure, on a chevron, between three griffins' heads, erased sable, three acorns or. 10. Argent semee of crosslets or. An unicorn rampant of the last. Crest—on a wreath or, and azure, a hand cuffed or, trimmed azure, holding a roll. Motto—"Qui capit capitur." On the east wall is a hatchment bearing the arms of Rolle; and on an escutcheon of pretence, are those of Walrond. Argent, three bull's faces, sable, horned or, and a Baron's coronet. Supporters, two wolves ppr. langued gules, bezanted, and crowned or. The other records of mortality within the walls are as follows:—The Rev. J. Glubb, thirty-nine years rector, March 4, 1797, aged 68. His widow, Jan. 5, 1800. Emily Warren, their daughter, Nov. 9, 1798, aged 34. Arms—Argent, three chevrons gules. W. Brown, gent., July 31, 1643. Elizabeth F. Hamilton, Aug. 28, 1794, aged 21.

The living is a rectory in the archdeaconry and diocese of Exeter, valued in the queen's book £12. 13s. 3d.; and according to the parliamentary returns, its net value annually is £220.

Lord Rolle is patron, and the Rev. David Horn-don is the respected incumbent.

The parish of Bicton* is bounded on the east by the river Otter, on the west by Woodbury, on the south east by Budleigh, and on the north, by Colyton Raleigh. The manor† was given by William the Conqueror, to W. Porto, one of his servants; but again coming into the king's hands, was by Henry the First, given to one John, surnamed Janitor, from his office as keeper of the county prison. In Edward the first's reign, Joan, the daughter of Janitor, brought Bicton to Galfride de Balister, who was to attend the king with his cross-bow and arrows in hunting, &c. Joan, daughter of Balister, brought this inheritance to Sachville, from which name, it came to Copleston. Charles Coplestone sold Bicton to Sir Robert Dennys.‡ Sir Robert, son

* Anciently Bycheton and Buckton, and sometimes Bickton and Bixton, as in Doomsday—"Terra Giroldi capellani, Bichetone, or terra servientium regis, Bechetone." Beichan, the British word for little. Beichanton, a little town. Beck or Bick, is a rivulet. But Bucketon or Buckton, may be taken from buck, a cow, and ton, a town Hence, the town of cows, or the cow's town."

† "Rex Henricus I. dedit manerium de Bnckton, alias Bickton, cuidam Johanni cognomine Janitor ratione officii sui, quia habuit, custodium gaolæ et castri Exoniæ in com. Devon; per quod servitium illud manerium adhuc tenetur. Et quod Dominus ibidem habet custodium gaolæ ibidem. Communis gaola ejusdem com. antiquis temporibus ibi fuit, antequam pro meliore securitate amota fuit usque ad castrum Exon." "Sciant præsent. & futur. quod ego Johan Janitor, consilio & consensu Isabellæ ux. meæ et frat. meor. concess. Deo Ecclesiæ sancti Michaelis in periculo Maris, &c. Servic. & Homag. Will. de Hoparm Hoxam quod mihi sec. pro una ferling. terr. quod appellat. Assedwill & de uno prat. vocat. Redmead, & de uno Almeto scitum juxta prædict. Prat. & unam libram piperis in cujus rei, &c. Teste Simon Episcopo Exon. Domino Reginaldo de Albemarle, Domino Ingeraldo Albemarle militib. Rog. de Poer. Joh. de Budleigh, Jurdan de Thdwell, Tholomeo de Ottriton.

‡ Sir W. Pole.

of Sir Thomas Dennys, by Elizabeth, daughter and heiress of Sir A. Dun, of London, new built the house, and adorned it with a park. He was succeeded by his son, Sir Thomas Dennys, (knighted in Holland, by the Earl of Leicester, in 1586,) who married Anne, daughter of W. Powlet, marquess of Winchester, and at his death left Bicton, and his other estate, Holcombe Burnel, to his two daughters—Anne, wife of Sir Henry Rolle, of Stevenstone, and Margaret, wife of Sir A. Manwaring, who sold Holcombe Burnel.* In the illustrious family of Rolle, Bicton still continues, as well as Harpford, Colyton Raleigh, Otterton, Budleigh, Aylesbeare, Littleham, Withecombe, Raleigh, and Woodbury.

Sir John Rolle, who changed his surname to Walter, demolished the ancient manor house of Bicton, with the design of building a magnificent mansion in its stead, but his death happening, when only one wing of the fabric was finished, Denys Rolle, esq., the next heir, completed the intentions of his brother; but since that period, it has, at various times, been extensively enlarged and beautified, so that it is now a splendid mansion, seated nearly in the centre of one of the finest parks in England. There is something eminently interesting in the distinguishing characteristics of this place; every object is symbolical of greatness: the beautiful gardens, interspersed with fish-ponds and ornamental statuary; the extent of the park decorated with venerable groves of beech, elm, and oak, under whose ample and umbrageous foliage, the deer feed in numerous squadrons; together with the other innumerable creations and

* Prince.

blandishments, which nature and art has produced here, all tend to furnish the mind with sentiments of the sublimest conception.

EAST BUDLEIGH.

PASSING from Bicton to Budleigh, I came to a cross, erected in the year 1743, standing in the centre of the four roads, on the shaft of which are engraven admonitory extracts from the scriptures, for the consideration of passengers.

The parish of Budleigh, containing a population of 2044, and real property, according to the assessment of 1815, of £5067 per annum, is about two miles long, from the sea to its northern boundary, and about the same distance from the mouth of the river Otter, eastward, to its western extremity on the common, where it bounds with the parish of Littleham. The populous village of East Budleigh, noticed by Sir W. Pole, as "a small market town," occupies a very beautiful station, about a mile south west of Otterton, and is thus alluded to by the historian Leland:—"On the west side of the haven is Budleigh, right almost against Otterton; but it is somewhat more from the shore than Otterton. Less than an hunderith yeres sins, shippes usid this haven, but it is now clean barred. Sum caulle this haven, Budleigh haven, of Budleigh town." The manufactory of leather is carried on here to a considerable extent, by Mr. Carpenter. The women are chiefly employed in lace-making, and the men in the business of husbandry.

The manor of Budleigh, the conqueror gave to Robert de Mount Chardon. Afterwards it was in the abbey of St. Michael de Monte, in periculo maris, and at the resumption, was purchased by R. Duke, from whose successors, it was bought by Dennys Rolle, esq. "Tidwell, in this parish," says Risdon, "did belong to the Tidwells," from whom it came to St. Cleeres, in which name it continued for many descents. In a deed of the thirteenth century, it is called Toddewille, and in another Thodewille; but its etymon is referred to a large well on the estate, which ebbs and flows like the sea. This property came into the Arscot family, by the daughter of Gabriel St. Cleere, who rebuilt the ancient manor house. About 1730, the Arscots sold Tidwell to Counsellor Wallrond, who built a new house on the estate, converting the old mansion into a farm house.

Hays, situated on the western side of the parish, is still known as the birth place of the celebrated Sir W. Raleigh. He was born here in 1552. Hays was held under a lease of eighty years, by his father Wimond Raleigh, esq., from the Duke family of Otterton.

Poerhayes, or Duke's Hayes. The family of Poer held this farm in the time of Henry the second, and after many descents in that name, it came, by marriage, into the great family of Duke, about the close of Henry the eighth's reign.

Daldich or Daleditch, was possessed in Henry the third's time, by Roger de Daldich, and is now the property of W. Hearder, esq., Newton Abbott.

The church of East Budleigh, dedicated to All-Saints, is a handsome structure, standing at the north west end of the village, with an embattled tower, eighty feet in height. It is a dis. vicarage, in the archdeaconry and diocese of Exeter, valued

in the queen's book at £30, and its net annual value, by parliamentary report of 1815, £318, Lord Rolle is the patron, and the Rev. A. Stapleton is the present incumbent. The entire fabric consists of a most respectable chancel, enclosed by an oak screen of open tracery, which is crowned by an embattled cornice; a nave, communicating with a north and south aisles, by four pointed arches. The exterior length of the building is about eighty-six feet, and width, fifty nine. In the arches of the windows are several armorial devices; and although the walls have all been renewed since the close of the fifteenth century, the Saxon columns, with their graceful capitals; and, perhaps, the whole of the ancient oak seats, on one of which, I observed a representation of Bishop Blaze, still continue to adorn this portion of the vineyard of God. Records of the dead, within the church, are as follows:—Anna Maria Miller, May 19, 1817, aged 36. Frances Eliz. Yeates, March 25, 1811, aged 36. Frances Maria Dort, of Tidwell House, April 16, 1835, aged 15. Edward Kendall Jones, Esq., of London, Nov. 14, 1812, aged 55. S. Walkey, esq., of Wennard House, Feb. 20, 1819, aged 73, &c.

In the episcopal register, mention is made of the chapels of St. James, St. Margaret, and St. Leonard in East Budleigh; and also of St. Michaels, at Wydecombe, in this parish. In the church yard, on a flat grave stone, near the gate, is this inscription, almost obliterated:—"Orate pro anima Radulphi Node." The vicar has £10 annually, out of the estates given by the Drake family, for charitable uses here.

Gudduck House, the residence of Capt. Crowther, stands on a very beautifully elevated ground, a little north west of the church. In 1833, Mr.

Williams, sold this property to its present proprietor, who, since that period, has enlarged and beautified the house. Its encircling lawn, which is laid out with much taste, commands enchanting views of the rich scenery of the neighbourhood and of the ocean, in the distance.

Here is a particularly neat dissenting chapel, erected in 1719. The ground and clock, with a handsome sum, in aid of the building, was given by Mr. John Pounce, a gentleman of Salterton, who, subsequently attached to it an endowment, which at present yields £14 per annum. The Rev. — Croome, is the present minister.

About two miles south of East Budleigh, and in the same parish, is Budleigh Salterton, which, at no very remote period, was an inconsiderable fishing station ; but owing to the peculiarly light and buoyant, and consequently curative character of the air at this place, has, of late years, been augmented into a considerable town, and is, at this time, a rapidly increasing watering place. The town, enjoying a fine stretch of beach, is situated at the base of a high eminence, on a delightful sweep of the channel, nearly midway between Sidmouth and Exmouth ; and consists chiefly of one long, wide, and airy street ; along the north side of which, a crystal stream, crossed to the houses by bridges, murmurs onward to the ocean. Those who have not lately visited Salterton, would be as much surprised at, as pleased with, the great improvements which have been made, and are now in progress, in this place of growing importance. A great number of lodging-houses, for the accommodation of visitors, as well as villas, for the resident gentry, have been erected ; and independent of the fine sea breezes and salt water bathing, the improved public paths and roads, which wind through rich

scenery, commanding extensive views of the sea, render the walks, rides, and drives in the vicinity, uncommonly interesting and beautiful. Prospect-place, and near to it, the respectable ladies' boarding school of Miss Phillips, are delightfully situated on fine commanding ground. On the beach, stands Cliff-terrace, a handsome range of lodging-houses; and to the westward, in a beautifully-secluded vale, are the extensive grounds and seat of John Campbell, esq. On the shore are to be found flat oval pebbles, of great value, particularly those composed of fire jasper, and the moss agate.

A few years ago, the Right Hon. Lord Rolle, with his well-known generosity, erected a handsome chapel of ease, for the accommodation of Salterton; and in 1813, the celebrated bookseller, Lackington, had a neat place of worship built for the Wesleyan methodists, on which he settled an endowment of £150 per annum. Mr. Lackington was interred in the church yard of East Budleigh.

The principal inns, are the Rolle's Arms, a respectable inn, and posting-house, kept by Mr. Pratt; and the Feathers, or Commercial Inn, conducted by Mr. Freeman. From the former, the mail leaves for Exeter, every morning at seven o'clock, and returns, by way of Exmouth, at the same hour in the evening.

The hot and cold baths are kept by Mr. Waters; the reading rooms, and circulating libraries, by Mr. Baker, and Mr. Payne, Stationers.

There are at present, the hundreds of East and West Budleigh; but according to the opinion of Polwhele, these, originally, constituted but one; the western parishes being distinguished as the west division, but in process of time became two distinct hundreds; and this opinion is supported

by the fact, that in the feodary, they are included under the appellation of "Budleigh Hundred." The feodary, indeed, notices manors in East and West Budleigh, but we do not find a place in the west division that bears the name, nor that it has ever had a hundred constable, or separate court.

EXMOUTH.

—————' By breezy hills,
And soft retiring dales, by smiling lawns,
Bold headlands dark with umbrage of the groves,
By towns and villages, and mansions fair,
By rocks magnificent, and potent rush
Of the mysterious ocean, we have attain'd
The gay and beautiful town of Exmouth.'

This fashionable sea-bathing place, is, as its name imparts, situated at the mouth of the river Exe, being 11 miles, south east by south, from Exeter, 169½ west south west of London, and 12 from Sidmouth. It is a chapelry and township, partly in the parish of Withycombe Rawleigh, but chiefly in that of Littleham, and constitutes the eastern division of the hundred of Budleigh. The landing of the Danes here in 1001, and again in 1008, probably first drew attention to it as a maritime station, and occasioned the erection of a fortification for the protection of the haven, which stood, as tradition says, at Gunpoint, a commanding spot, whereon vestiges of embrasures were visible, until very lately. In doomsday book, (A. D., 1080,) we have "Terra regis Liteham," and "Terra ecclesiæ de Hortone Liteham." Exmouth seems to have been a sea-port of some consequence at the commencement of the

thirteenth century, as it sent two members to a council of state, held at Westminster, in the 14th of Edward the third, and provided ten ships, with 193 men, for the great naval armament of that king, at the beginning of his war with France. The Earl of March, afterwards Edward the fourth, on the defeat of the Yorkists, at Ludlow, in 1459, fled into Devon, with the Earls of Salisbury, Warwick, and others, and took shipping here, and sailed for Calais. During the great civil war, Exmouth was alternately possessed by the parliamentary forces, and the royalists, but was ultimately taken by the former in March, 1646. Of Exmouth, William of Worcester says:—"Fons dictæ aquæ incipit in Exmore ex parte boreali et orientali per circa X miliaria, et cadit in mare apud Exmouth havyn: distat ab Excestre versus meridiem, vid. 6. miliaria." It is pretty evident that this must have been a place of importance in early ages; but from some cause, not now attainable, seems to have fallen into a state of decay, as Leland, Risdon, Prince, and other writers of less note, agree in representing it as a small hamlet, inhabited chiefly by fishermen. About the close, however, of the seventeenth century, a judge of the circuit court came here for the recovery of his health, and received such great benefit from the waters and atmosphere of Exmouth, that it suddenly came into repute as a watering place; and an inhabitant, in a letter to Polwhele, the historian, written about the year 1778, thus describes it:—"The village is a very pretty one, and composed, for the most part, of cot-houses, neat and clean, consisting of four or five rooms, which are generally let at one guinea per week. We have, from some of the houses, when the tide is in, a beautiful view of the river, which, united

with the sea, forms a fine sheet of water before our doors, of large extent. Lords Courtenay and Lisburne's grounds, rising in inequalities on the other shore, complete the perspective. This is the most gay part of the village, but then its brilliancy is only temporary; for, the tide returned, instead of a fine sheet of water, we are presented with a bed of mud, whose perfumes are not equal with those of a bed of roses. Another part affords you the view of scattered cottages, forming a pleasing scene. Here the gratification which the eye receives, is less delightful and more durable; for which last property, there are some who prefer this to the former situation. Exmouth boasts no public rooms or assemblies, save one card assembly, in an inconvenient apartment, at one of the inns. The company meet at half-past five, and break up at ten; they play at shilling whist, or two-penny quadrille. We have very few young people here, and no diversions, no belles-dames, amusing to the unmarried, but some belles dames, unamusing to the married. Fifteen years later than the writing of this account of Exmouth, Mr. Polwhele found that, owing to the salubrity and curative effects of its air, it had attained great celebrity as a watering place, and was not only the oldest, but best frequented in the county. Since the latter period, Exmouth has gradually improved; and is, at this time, a large populous town, furnished with commodious inns, hotels and boarding-houses, of first-rate respectability; as well as assembly, billiard, and card-rooms. The principal parts of Exmouth are thus named:—North-street, the entrance to the town; the Parade, a fine range of buildings, with pleasant gardens behind, and a broad gravelled walk in front; Johnstone's-place, pleasantly situated near a fine elm, called "the

round tree." Contiguous to the mud bank, are some good houses, particularly those of J. Hill, and F. Rowe, esqrs. By this embankment, a fine tract of pasturage has been rescued from the overflowing of the Exe. The square, a respectable part of the town, not a little ornamented by the rural effect of stately trees. Here are situated the market-house, erected some years ago, at the expense of Lord Rolle; the respectable classical and commercial boarding and day school of Mr. Hill;* and the globe hotel, a house replete with every convenience for the accommodation of the public, conducted with much liberality and attention, by Mr. Bastin. Connected with this excellent establishment, is Bastin's marine hotel, so pleasantly situated on Beacon-hill. On the Strand, are many good shops and lodging-houses; and adjoining, is an agreeable promenade, called "the Shepherd's Walk." It is a gravelled path, sheltered by the rich foliage of superb elms. In an adjoining street, near the cross, is situated the Dolphin Inn, a good commercial house, where the spirit, beer, and malt trades are carried on to a very considerable extent by its esteemed proprietor, Mr. James Foster; the London Inn, by Mrs. Gifford; and the Swan Inn, by Mr. P. Clode, are also good secondary houses for the entertainment of the public. On Chapel-hill, stands the vicarage, a neat fabric, inhabited by the Rev. J. Pratt; and near to it the manor house. On the western beach are the baths, an establishment well calculated to give public satisfaction; the houses of the preventive service; and beyond them Shell Cottage, the residence of H. Spence,

* This gentleman has the merit of having effected some valuable practical improvements in his profession, particularly in the mode of teaching navigation, a science in which he is an efficient practitioner.

esq. This extensive beach, to the northward, is studded with villas, each encircled by pleasure grounds, suited for the accommodation of families of distinction. Among which, we have "the Temple," the residence of the Rev. Joseph Gattey, a handsome Grecian structure, erected in imitation of Theseus, and the Winds of Athens. On the Beacon hill, we have a very elegant display of fashionable houses, which are yearly increasing in number and beauty. Here reside some families of respectability:—viz. Mrs. Buller, Capt. Brown, and — Walker, esq., &c. On this pleasing eminence are situated the two extensive marine and family hotels of Mr. Baston and Miss Ewins. The latter includes the assembly, billiard, and card rooms, and a most respectable subscription library, which embraces almost every work of interest. From the windows of the numerous and elegantly-furnished suites of apartments in this respectable establishment, the views are most enchanting; extending to the city of Exeter; and in that direction, and south-east-ward, embrace every seat of distinction and object of public interest throughout the intermediate country. The public promenade on the Beacon, commands a length and breadth of scenery, which, in point of picturesque grandeur, may be equalled, but, doubtless, not surpassed in Europe. To the westward, the Warren, Mount Pleasant, the dark woodland scenes of Luscombe, Dawlish, the Estuary of the Teign, Stoke-common, the Ness-point, Torbay; and in the extreme distance, Berry-head, with the busy and ever-shifting animation of the boats and vessels on the open sea are seen to the greatest advantage. In the opposite direction, we have the rich scenery of the Exe, the city of Exeter, with its parochial towers; and far away over the wavey landscape,

the Membury hills, near Honiton. To the northward, the scenographical map, beginning with the broad and lake-like river, the picturesque villages of Starcross and Kenton; the mansion of Dr. Drury, embosomed in wood, and the dark and majestic scenery of Powderham, is broken into a succession of bold inequalities and verdant hills, alternating in height, on ascending ground, with the brown features of Haldon, here and there rising in contrast to fertility; and the beautiful belvideres of the Earl of Devon, and Sir Lawrence Palk, with their graceful accompaniments, affords a scene of large extent, which approaches in grandeur and sublimity, the magnificent landscapes of Switzerland.—

There is beauty in those scenes by mountains encur'd
Which slumbers in darkness and wakes with the light:
There is beauty when morn hath her banner unfurl'd
Or when stars twinkle forth from the azure of night.
There is beauty on land with its thousand domains,
Its corn-fields of plenty,—its meadows of balm,
There is beauty on ocean's vast verdureless plains,
Though lash'd into fury, or lull'd into calm.
O God of creation! these sights are of Thee,
Thou surely hast made them for none but the free.

In the Louisa and Trefusis Terraces, which are built in the Bath style, reside the following distinguished gentry:—Sir D. Forrest, General Boles, — Peel, esq., R. Pring, esq., — Hine, esq., General Dallas, and Capt. Usherwood. Adelaide-terrace, situated on the confines of the New-road, presents a neat range of regular buildings, with pretty flower-gardens in front. Near the new church, are Bicton-place, Bicton-terrace, and rows of genteel houses; in the latter of which, is the residence of Admiral Nesham. Castle-park Terrace, pleasantly situated on a commanding spot, at the head of Bic-

ton-street, includes the residence of T. Wrighton, esq., from whence the subjacent country is seen in beautiful perspective. The other principal streets are Fore-street, Southtown-street, Chapel-street, and Tower-street. The church: This magnificent structure, dedicated to St. Margaret, was erected in 1825, by the Right Hon. Lord Rolle, at an expense of £13,000. It stands in an open situation on the Beacon-hill, and consists of a beautiful tower, rising to the height of one hundred and four feet, a nave and chancel, fifty feet high, with handsome corresponding aisles. On the outside, the entire building is one hundred and forty feet in length, by eighty-four wide. The chancel is lighted by a perpendicular window, thrown into two transoms, of five compartments each; and under it, over the tables of the decalogue, is a canopy of Beer-stone, ornamented with beautiful crockets, pinnacles, and finals, in Mr. Night's style of execution. The decorated English gothic style of architecture, is carried into fine effect throughout the whole fabric; and the architect has here shown that, by not darkening the windows with numerous mullions and ramifications, nothing can add beauty to light. This is a chapel of ease, for the inhabitants of Exmouth, the mother church being at the village of Littleham, two miles from the town; and its benevolent founder, a nobleman, not less distinguished for his liberality in the promotion of every object of public utility, and good deeds of charity, than his extensive possessions, in addition to the grant of the land the building occupies, which, with the church-yard, is of considerable extent, and the expense of this noble edifice, his lordship, in consideration of the inadequacy of the income of the vicar, has endowed it

for the good of the parishioners.* The church of Littleham, dedicated to the Holy Trinity,† stands, with its accompanying village, in a romantic situation at the base of Westdown-hill, near the south-east extremity of the parish of Littleham, and is a fabric of very considerable antiquity. It is a vicarage, which, with the chapel at Exmouth, is a peculiar of the dean and chapter of Exeter, and valued in the queen's book at £15. 12s. 6d., certified yearly value £47. Within its walls, are the following records of the dead, many of whom appear to have been visitors, who died at Exmouth:—Dorothy, wife of W. Richardson, esq., M.P., of Armagh, 1793. Margaret, daughter of T. Graham, esq., of Edmund Castle, Cumberland, 1794. S. Eyre, esq., of Newhouse, Wilts, 1795. J. Hossack, M.D., of the Royal Hospital, Greenwich, 1796. Lady Whitford, wife of Sir J. Whitford, Bart., 1801. Major Gen. W. Elliott, of Roxburgh, 1803. P. Middleton, esq., Hull, 1803. D. Lindlay, esq., of Drummond, in Haddingtonshire, 1804. Mrs. M. Wynn, daughter of Sir R. Wynn, bart., 1804. J. C. Maclaurin, M.D., 1804. J. Graham, esq., 1804. J. Hatch Jenkins, esq., of Meath, 1805. T. Barrett, esq., of Sharam, in Kent, 1806. J.

* St. Margaret's chapel, at Exmouth, occurs in the registers of the bishop of Exeter, and in Bacon's Liber Regis, as a chapel to Littleham: dean and chapter of Exeter, patrons.

† The church of the Holy Trinity, at Littleham, is also mentioned in one of the episcopal registers; and it appears from the same authority, that leave was given to the inhabitants of Exmouth, to hear mass at Trinity chapel, in the village. In the returns of the Commissioners to parliament, for plundering ministers, in 1648, and the two following years, it is written:—"A chapel at Exmouth—here was a lecture." Another chapel is noticed in the Liber-regis:—"Chickston (St.Saviour,) olim cap. to Littleham. Destructa." Bishop Stafford's register, notices a chapel, dedicated to the Holy Trinity, as in use in Exmouth, in 1412.

Short, M. D., of Barnes, Scotland, 1807. T. Loventhorp, esq., 1815. M. J. England, daughter of Lieut. Gen. England, 1815. G. Jardine, esq., of Edinburgh, 1817. Elizabeth, daughter of A. Fotheringhay, esq., 1817. Caroline, wife of T. Rhodes, esq., 1817. H. Cholmley, esq. 1819. F. Moresby, esq., of Staffordshire, 1820. Major Callard, 1820. S. Cave, M.D., 1820. In an aisle which belonged to the Drake family is a monument to the memory of Robert Drake, who appears to have been a great benefactor to this place in the time of Charles the first. He was born at Spratshayes, in this parish, and was the third son of Gilbert Drake, of that place, a branch of the family of Drake in the parish of Musbury. He studied the law in the Inner Temple; married and settled at Dalditch, in East Budleigh; but dying in 1626, was buried here.

The seats of the gentry in and about Exmouth are numerous, of which I can only notice the principal. Cliff-end-house, the residence of C. Gifford, esq., situated at the north extremity of the town, stands in a delightful spot which commands pleasant and extensive views. Marlpool Hall, more inland, is a fine building; and the park, though not large, is richly ornamented with trees of luxuriant growth. Connected with the grounds is a large fish-pond, which yields abundance of trout to its respected possessor, T. W. Hull,* esq. On the confines of the New-road, on elevated ground, stands Highfield-house, the handsome seat of J. R. Wise, esq., and Russell-

* This delightful seat stands within the parish of Withecombe-Raleigh, and is thus noticed by Polwhele. "Marpool, a pleasant seat in this parish, had been left in a ruinous state; but a short time since, it was repaired for the residence of W. T. Hull, esq. whose father's convivial qualities are well remembered by the neighbourhood."

house, the residence of the Rev. Mr. Griffith. The professional gentlemen of Exmouth are as follows: Solicitors: Messrs. Trenchard, of Balcony-house. Surgeons: ——— Waters, esq., Louisa-terrace; G. Beach, esq., Bicton-place; ——— Spetticue, esq., Bicton-terrace; ——— Kean, esq., and ——— Land, esq., Strand. Chemists and druggists:—Mr. Pearse, Gwydir-place, and Mr. S. Thornton, Beacon. The principal ladies' boarding school is conducted by Miss Miller. The respectable shopkeepers of the town, are Mr. Sheppard, Mr. Staple, Mr. Webber, Mr. Halse, Mr. Rising, Mr. Nicks, Mr. Langsford, Mr. Treat, and Mr. Walters. Cabinet-makers: Mr. Palbey and Mr. H. Sheppard. In addition to the extensive subscription library of Miss Ewens, there is a select circulating library, kept by Mr. Radford, bookseller and stationer. Mr. Bell, is a respectable coal-factor here.

The population of Exmouth, including Littleham and Withycombe Rawleigh, is about 5000, and the registered voters 200.

Littleham, in the hundred of East Budleigh,* was vested in the church of Hortunensis, in William the conqueror's time; afterwards, it belonged to the Abbey of Sherborne; and, soon after the suppression of that foundation, it came to the family of Dennys, three of whom were knights: viz., Sir Thomas, Sir Robert, and Sir Thomas. The son of the latter, left this land to his daughter Margaret, who married Sir Arthur Manwaring; from whom the manor descended to its

* "Bod," says Rowland, "means a fixed dwelling, in opposition to the tents, as described by Cæsar. Bod lew, a lion's den." Budle is the British word for stream. Dean Milles says, "that Budleigh implies, the place of springs," which seems to be a just appropriation, as that parish abounds in springs or running brooks, not a house in the parish being more than a quarter of a mile from a rivulet.

present noble possessor, Lord Rolle. Sprats-hayes, once a seat of respectability, and although now occupied as a farm house, still bears testimony of its ancient character. It is situated in a rich vale, near the church, and was in 1793, the property of the Rev. E.H. Drake; but at this time it belongs to Mrs. Drew. Hulham, alias Holdham, was in St. Nicholas' church, Exeter; and at the dissolution, was purchased by John Drake, esq. Sir Bernard Drake sold it to Crimes, of Buckland Monacorum, who left it to his son, Woodland, for some time in the Raleigh family, of Netecombe, descended to T. Whalisborrow, by whose daughter, it came to the family of Trevelyn, of Netlecombe; Holdham and Woodland, are now possessed by farmers, under Lord Rolle, their proprietor.

King James, by letters patent, granted to A. Crewe, and W. Starky, "the tythes of grain, garb, and blade, and all others his tythes of Withecombe Raleigh," as parcel of the priory of Polesloe. The answers to the Bishop's queries in 1748, show that there is a benefaction of nearly £100 per annum, called Drake's charity, vested in the parishes of Littleham, Withecombe, and Budleigh, out of which, the ministers of the latter two parishes, are entitled to £7 each, yearly; and that "a chapel, near the New Inn, (qr. the present Globe,) at Exmouth, was converted into a dwelling house in 1724." This may have been a votive chapel, such as were often erected in maritime places, in the days of Papal supremacy. Sir J. Elwill, bart., in 1724, gave £100, four per cents, for teaching poor children; and in the same year, H. Peardon, esq., gave £80 for the same purpose. The Right Hon. Lord Rolle, some years ago, had a school-house erected for the accommodation of 300 children, on Dr. Bell's

system of education ; and his lordship's lady in 1816, gave £200 in the five per cents towards its endowment.

WITHECOMBE-RALEIGH.

This parish, anciently "Withecumbe Claville,"* was possessed by Claville, who came to this country with the conqueror, and afterwards by the family of Raleigh. Sir W. Pole's notice of this place is as follows:—The manor of Withecumbe, now Thomas Raymonts' descended by his mother, one of ye daughters and heires of John Drake, ye younger. Hill, from its ancient ownes of ye name; and from them it came unto John, the sonne of Will^m Dupe, who died without issue in Kinge Rich. 2 tyme, & then this & Exton came unto John Sokespich, the sonne of Matilda, on of ye sisters of Will^m Dupe, and unto John Cole, the sonne of Katerin, the other sister of Will^m Dupe. From John Cole, whose daughter Agnes was married to John Drake, of Exmouth, before sett down, & they gave this land unto their youngest sonne, and soe it is descended unto Thomas Raymond, whose own it is." In 1756, this manor was in the Bassett family, and by successive sales it was possessed by Jackson and Cuttler; the latter of whom, in 1801, sold it to the father of the present proprietor, Edward Divett, esq. Westcote says that "this manor was held by the service of finding the king two good arrows stuck in an oaten cake, whenever he should hunt in Dartmoor." The

* In Domesday; Terra Walterii de Dowai Wodicom or Terra Walterii de Claville, Widecome, signifying the wide valley. In the Liber-regis, it is written "Witchcombe."

manors of Broadham and Rill, within this manor, are the property of W. T. Hull, esq., of Marpool-house. Courtlands, by a late sale, became the property and residence of Sir Walter Roberts, bart. Whimsey, has for many years been the residence of Edward Payne, esq., whose property it is.

On a hill, in the midst of a wood, near the north extremity of the parish of Withecombe, stand the remains of the ancient parish-church; it is two and a half miles from Exmouth, and was dedicated to St. John the Baptist; or as the inhabitants will have it, to St. John in the wilderness; indeed, the highly-romantic character of the situation of this ruin, justifies the latter distinction. About fifty years ago, this ancient fabric, with the exception of one aisle, and the tower, which still stand as firm as ever, was by virtue of a faculty demolished. The church-yard, encompassing these fragments of antiquity, still used as a burial ground, is a spot of unusual solemnity: the tomb-stones of the dead, each with its important memento, strewed about in disorder; some standing erect, some by an unerring casualty, leaning away from their original perpendicular; and others, that have stood upright, are prostrate among the grass, which is rotting where it grew; the stern dignity of the ruined temple, and the sighing wood around, constitutes a scene well calculated for solemn contemplation:—

“ By guides half barbarous o’er the ruins led,
The sole memorials of the mighty dead;
Views prostrate columns strew the weed-clad ground,
O’er which the breezes creep with moaning sound.
Thoughts such as these may throng his breast, as sighs
O’er the wild haunts of desolation rise.
The scenes of ruin that around I scan,
Tempt me to ask, with doubtings,—What is man ?

Ye hoary fane—ye prostrate columns say—
The flutt'ring insects of a transient day."

The only monument within the building is that of Joseph Hucks, who died in 1800.

In the village of Withecombe Raleigh, which is a short mile from the town of Exmouth, is a chapel of ease, or rather a substitute for St. John in the Wilderness. In 1722, it was extensively repaired, and probably enlarged, for the most part at the expense of Sir John Colleton, bart., a gentleman who possessed very considerable property in this parish, and had his residence in "Withecombe Exmouth." His arms were.—Or, three stag's heads, coupé proper—Crest, a stag's head coupé proper.

In this chapel, the monuments of Edward Holwell, esq., who died in 1793, and the Hon. Alexander Abercrombie, one of the lords of the council and sessions, and lord commissioner of justice in Scotland, who died in 1795. And in the adjoining burial ground, are tombs for the following personages:—Sir John Colleton, bart., 1754. Elizabeth, wife of N. Dennys, Esq., of Barnstaple, and daughter of Serjeant Belfield, 1783. Dorothy, wife of John Freston Scrivener, esq., of Sibbon Abbey, Suffolk, 1794. W. Swinney Neligan, esq., of Teddington, Middlesex, 1795. James Ford, D. D., 1799. Louisa, daughter of the Right Hon. William Brownlow, of Ireland.

King James, by letters patent, granted to Anthony Crewe, and William Starky, all "tythes of grain, garb, and blade; and all other his tythes of Withecombe Raleigh, being parcel of the priory of Polesloe." The answers to the queries of the Bishop of Exeter, in the year 1748, show that there was a benefaction of nearly £100 per annum, called "Drake's charity," vested in the parishes of Budleigh, Withecombe, and Little-

ham, out of which, the ministers of the two former are entitled to £14 yearly ; and that an ancient chapel, "situated near the New Inn, in Withecombe, Exmouth, had been converted into a dwelling-house." This may have been a votive chapel, such as frequently occurred in maritime places in the time of papal supremacy ; and the New Inn, mentioned, is supposed to have been the present Globe Hotel, about that time newly-established.

Raleigh-villa, the residence of John Swann, esq., in this parish, is a handsome and pleasant seat.

The great object of attraction here is Bystock, the beautiful seat of Edward Divett, esq., M. P. for the city of Exeter. Though belonging to the adjoining parish of Colyton-Raleigh, it is situated nearly in the centre of Withecombe. Tradition says, that, during the continuance of the plague in this place, the minister of Withecombe refused to bury the dead ; and in consequence of the vicar of Colyton Raleigh having humanely supplied his place, the estate of Bystock was annexed to the latter parish.

Previous to the year 1801, when this property was purchased by the father of its present respected owner, it was successively in the names of Mr. W. Jackson, Mr. Day, and Henry Cutler, esq. Owing to the extensive improvements, which have of late years, been effected on the grounds, and the chaste and elegant character of the house, it is at this time, one of the prettiest seats in the south-east of Devon ; and when the young wood grows up, it will have but few competitors as a place of beauty.

There is a great variety of romantic scenery about the rural, I may say, rustic village of Withecombe ; and as the walk thither from Ex-

mouth, constitutes a pleasing addition to the numerous promenades of that town, this retired place is much visited.

WOODBURY.

THIS parish, in Domesday "Terra regis Wodeberie." signifying the wooded castle, is four miles and a half in length, by three and a half wide; and contains eight villages, viz., Grindle, two miles east; Salterton, one mile north-east; Woodmantown, three quarters of a mile south; Gulliford, one mile and a half south-west; Higher Nutwell, a mile south-west; Exton, two miles west; Ebford, two miles north-west, of the church and church-village, which are nearly in the centre of the parish. It is bounded on the west by the beautiful river Exe, and two rivulets are formed within its boundaries from springs, one of them called the Grindle, runs through the village of that name, and the other through church village. The former takes its rise in Rockham-wood, and runs a course of about five miles before it falls into the Clyst. The parish abounds with oak, elm, and ash; and the extensive views enjoyed from Woodbury Castle, which crowns the common, with Bystock, the beautiful seat of Edward Divett, esq., under it, produce a noble and interesting effect. From this eminence, to the north-east, we have a fine view of Black Down, and the Quantock hills; and through a clear atmosphere, in the same direction, the isle of Portland. To the south, of Berryhead, the extremity of Torbay, stretching boldly into the channel; and to the northward of it, the primeval forest of Dartmoor, are seen to great

advantage. At our feet, as it were, we have the river Exe, a beautiful devious line of light, shaded and contrasted by the richly-cultivated grounds which adorn its winding banks.

The manor of Woodbury was, in the time of Henry the first, given to Roger de Maundeville, Castellan of the castle of Exeter. Stephen de Maundeville, his son, with the license of Henry the second, granted it to W. Carbonell; and Roger de Maundeville, his son, confirmed it to William, son of the said W. Carbonell. From the latter it descended to Sir W. Damarell, who possessed it in the thirty-sixth of Edward the third, and from him to Sir W. Bonville, by the marriage of Margaret, the sister of Damarell. From Bonville, it lineally descended to Henry Gray, Duke of Suffolk; but having escheated to the crown, was purchased by John Prideaux, serjeant at law; and it is now the property of the Right Hon. Lord Rolle. The manor of Nutwell was possessed by Oliver de Dinham, in the reign of Henry the second, who gave it to the priory of Dinham, in Brittany; but after the suppression of alien priories, it was again the property of the Dinham family: and Sir John Dinham, who was treasurer to Henry the seventh; and afterwards Lord Dinham, erected in this place a castellated mansion for his own residence, which Risdon calls "a fair and stately dwelling." It retained the characteristics of a castle until the time of Edward the fourth, when it was altered by Lord Dinham. Sergeant Prideaux purchased this property from the heirs of Dinham. In Sir W. Pole's time, it was the seat of Sir T. Prideaux, and afterwards, successively, of Sir Henry Ford,*

* Sir Henry Ford, who was knighted by Charles the second, purchased the manor, or that part of it in which are situated Nutwell, court and Barton, and made it his place of residence; here he died,

and the Pollexfens. At a late period, Nutwell-court was the property and seat of Sir Francis Drake, bart.,* who made extensive alterations in the house and grounds, when a very handsome domestic chapel, adjoining a spacious dining-room, at the east end, was converted into a library. From Sir Francis, it passed by devise, to his nephew, the late Lord Heathfield, at whose death, in 1813, this estate came to its present esteemed owner, Sir Francis Trayton Fuller Elliot Drake, created a baronet in 1821. This beautiful seat is sheltered on all sides by semi-

and was buried in Woodbury church. His arms were: Azure—three lions rampant crowned or. Crest, on a torse argent and sable, a demy greyhound erect sable, gorged with a collar argent, studded with three acorns or inter two branches vert, each bearing three fruits argent.

* Arms of Drake. The field is diamond, a fess wavy between the two pole stars, pearl. "Such was the worth," (say Guillim) of this most generous and renowned knight, Sir Francis Drake, as that his merits do require that his coat armour should be expressed in that selected manner of blazoning, that is fitting to noble personages, in respect of his noble courage, and high attempts atchieved, whereby he merited to be reckoned the honour of our nation, and of naval profession; inasmuch as the cutting through the Magellanick Straits in 1577. Within the compass of three years, he encompassed the whole world; whereof his ship, laid up in a dock, near Deptford, will long time remain as a most worthy monument. Of these his travels, a poet has thus spoken :

Drake, pererrati novit quem terminus orbis,
Quemque semel mundi vidit uterque polus.
Si taceant. homines, facient te sidera notum,
Sol nescit comitis non memor esse sui.

Thus translated :—

The world's surveyed bounds, brave Drake, on thee did gaze,
Both north and southern poles have seen thy manly face;
If thankless men conceal, thy praise the stars will blaze,
The sun his fellow-traveller's worth will duly grace.

The crest granted by Queen Elizabeth to Sir Francis Drake, in consideration of his great enterprize, was a ship on a globe, under reef, held by a cable rope, with a hand out of the clouds. *Motto—* auxilio divino."

circular eminences, excepting to the westward, in which direction it opens on the river Exe. It was garrisoned for parliamentary forces during the civil wars. The nominal manor, Grindell, was given to Tor abbey by Bishop Brewer; and now it belongs to the Rev. Thomas Putt, of Combe.

Ebford is an ancient seat in this parish, situated on the east bank of the river Clist, about a mile from Topsham. In the time of Edward the first it was possessed by Ralph de Ebford. In Edward the second's time it was in the family of Haydon. It is now, and has been for several generations, the property of the respectable family of Lee.

The church, which, according to Bishop Stafford's register, was new built, and dedicated to St. Swithen, in 1409, is eighty-five feet long, by forty wide, and twenty high, with a square embattled tower, containing six fine bells, and rising to the height of eighty feet.

The monuments are as follows:—1. Dinham. 2. Haydon., both much mutilated, and inscriptions defaced. 3. For the Prideaux family. 4. Philip Lempriere, esq., of Jersey, 1787. 5. Ann Maria, wife of C. Beard, esq., 1791. 6. Thomas Heathfield, esq., of Nuttwell, 1806.

The vicars choral of the Exeter Cathedral, possess the manor of Halstow, and are the appropriators of the tithes, and patrons of the rectory, which is in their peculiar jurisdiction.

Charities.—Thomas Weare, in 1691, gave £4 10s. per annum, for ever, for the education of poor children. W. Holwell, M. D. in 1707, gave £50; and in 1728, Isaiah Broadwood gave £120 for the same purpose: the whole of which was laid out in land, at this time producing a rental of £46 for the support of a charity school in the parish.

SIDBURY.

In Domesday book Sidbury is "Terra episcopi Exon Sideberie;" and takes its name from the small river Sid, and an old castle standing a little south-east of the parish church. The Sid is formed by the junction of five springs issuing from the following five combes or vales in the parish.—Bashcombe, Lyncombe, Levercombe, Harcombe, and Sandcombe. The parish, which is sixteen miles in circumference, and surrounded by hills, except to the south and south-west, is bounded on the north-east by the parishes of Farway, Gittisham, and Honiton; on the west by St. Mary Ottery; and on the south by Sidmouth. Near the village of Sidford, the river is crossed by an ancient bridge of two arches, charmingly festooned with ivy. Tradition will have it, that it was to this place Charles the second fled from Lyme, and that the mistress of the cottage, in this village, never after entered the room in which he had slept without making a profound courtesy. Sir W. Pole says, "this manor is of good value, and yet doth belong unto the dean and chapter of Exon, and hath many freeholders within it." The manor of Sidbury was sold under the land-tax redemption act, in 1800, to W. Guppy, esq., from whom it was purchased by Robert Hunt, esq., and others; but on Aug. 30, 1834, this and other property, belonging to Mr. Hunt, in all seventeen lots, was sold at the New London Inn, in Exeter, by auction, by direction of the mortgagees, under a power of sale; viz., the manor of Sidbury, with courts leet and baron, Sidbury-house, corn-mills, dwelling-houses, the village of Sidbury, three thousand acres of land, and an annual fair for cattle.

Sand, in this parish, which Risdon called "a dainty dwelling," then inhabited by Mr. Huish, was granted by the dean and chapter to William Sand, in the time of Henry the third, from whose successors it came to Tremail, one of the judges of the court of Common Pleas, in the reign of Henry the seventh; after which, it was purchased by the family of Huyshe, a name subsequently modified to Huish, as before noticed. Rowland Huyshe erected the house in 1594, and made it the place of his residence. In 1640, John, Lord Capel resided here, and over the garden porch was then inscribed:—Johannis Capelli Hortus, 1640."

Mincombe, anciently Minkcombe, was the property of John Knowle, to whom William Winard, granted all the lands which he held in this parish, and they subsequently came to Sir Walter Yonge, a branch of the family of Thomas Yonge, who was judge of the court of common pleas, in the time of Edward the fourth; after Yonge, Nicholas Warren, gent., possessed this place, who was succeeded by Woolcott.*

Woodhouse, the present manor-house, and residence of James Cunningham, esq., was the property of John de Woodhouse, in the time of Richard the second; subsequently it was successively possessed by Nitheway, Waller, Whiddon, Prideaux and Cragg.

The manors of Sidford and Stone, in Henry the second's reign, the land of Wandragius, or

* Sir W. Pole's account is, "An old mansion house, in this parish, had divers dwellers in it of that name, and after, the Holbeames. From Holbeame, by Elizabeth, daughter of John Holbeame, this land came unto John Marwood, her son, and was allotted unto Elinor, wife of Robert Wichale, and Elizabeth, wife of John Chichester, of Hall, whose grandchild, Sir John Chichester, of Hall, holdeth his moiety; and Charles Trevanyon, esq., descended from Elinor, hath sold his part lately unto William Ulcott."

Mandragius, whom successively followed Warin, William, and Warin de la Stain, in the latter part of the reign of Henry the third. In the time of the third Edward, it was possessed by Sir Simon Turvey, and after him, by the family of Trivet. From the latter this land descended to Roger Pym, whose grand-children, Erasmus and Alexander Pym, sold this and other property in this parish to Sir William Peryham, knight, one of the lords of the exchequer, at whose death they descended in coparcenary to his daughters, Mary and Elizabeth; the former married to Sir W. Pole, knight, of Colcombe-castle, in the parish of Colyton, and the latter to Sir Robert Bassett, of Heanton-punchardson, knight. Sir W. Pole, purchased Bassett's part. The manor-roll shows that Stone pays £7 2s. as a chief-rent to the dean and chapter of Exeter.

Wotton was granted by lady Margaret Martyn, about the beginning of the reign of Edward the third, to John Bampffield, of Poltimore.

Horcombe was the inheritance of W. de Horcombe, in Edward the first's reign; and after, in the latter part of the reign of Edward the third, Ralph Lapslope was its owner, from whom it descended to Stavely. This land belonged to the ancient manor of Sidbury, and was part of the property of the family of Huish.

Court-hall is the ancient manor house. Gustavus Smith, esq., of Castle-hill, a handsome seat, is the principal proprietor in Sidbury.

The church of Sidbury, standing in the village, is a handsome uniform structure, bearing obvious characteristics of a building of the latter part of the thirteenth century, enlarged in the fifteenth, and considerably altered and repaired about the close of the sixteenth century. It comprises a chancel, twenty-eight feet in length, by fifteen

and a half wide, which communicates with the nave by an early-pointed arch, and is lighted by four windows, with cinquefoil-headed compartments and quatrefoils in the arch; a lofty nave, fifty feet long, by sixteen wide, with lights in the roof, and opening into side aisles by four pointed arches of early date: a cross-transept retiring from the aisles by an arch, on either side, both ornamented with foliage, unhappily obscured with whitewash, is lighted by three windows of three lancet-headed lights each; a south porch, with two heavy embattled turrets, containing stairs which lead to the belfry, and a room over the porch; a vestry room on the north side, and at the west end, a low embattled tower, containing six bells, surmounted by an octagonal spire, and weathercock. Within, the roof is thrown into quadrangular compartments, by carved oak ribs, ornamented at the angles with bosses of foliage;—and four shields charged. 1. Three leaves or. fleurs-de-lis in bend. 2. The head of a pole-axe. 3. A trivet. 4. A hand dexter, with an axe. Nearly all the windows of the aisles consist of three compartments, each with cinquefoil heads and perpendicular tracery. At the west-end of the nave, is a commodious gallery, containing an organ and a clock, erected in 1754, and another of a later date, in the north aisle. The pulpit, of oak, was erected in 1715, and the font, octagonal, and ornamented with foliage and quatrefoils, lined with lead, and locked, stands at the west end of the nave.

Monuments.—Chancel: A tablet, for the Rev. Richard Babington, vicar, 1682. Arms—argent ten torteauxes, 4, 3, 2, 1, impaling, or, three bars gules. Tablet for John Stone, a freemason, who died January 1, 1617, bearing the following epitaph:—

"On our great corner stone, this stone relied,
 For blessing to his building, loving most
 To build God's temples, in works he died;
 And lived the temple of the Holy Ghost.
 In whose land life is proved, and honest fame,
 God can of stones, raise seed to Abraham."

A brass plate for Henry Robert Parsons, 1650. Marble tablet for Mrs. Alic Gilbert Cheek, relict of the Rev. N. M. Cheek, founder of St. Stephen's church, Salford, Manchester, and daughter of Robert Banister, esq., of Antigua, who died at Sidbury Court Hall, Nov. 14, 1825. North wall—tablet of black and white marble, for some of the family of Huyshe, thus inscribed: "Beneath this stone, in the burial place of their ancestors, of Sand, in this parish, are deposited the bodies of four daughters of Francis Huyshe, formerly rector of Clyst. Lydon, and his wife Sarah, daughter of Richard Nevet, of Duval, in the parish of Bampton, who themselves closed the eyes of Elizabeth, Nov. 12, 1731, in her 21st year; Sarah, the eldest, and widow of John Thomson, rector of Mesey Hampton, county of Gloucester, died Jan. 2, 1794, having completed her 86th year. Francis followed her sister, April 22, 1797, at the age of 82. Jane, the youngest, ended that line of the family, with her own blameless life, Oct. 23, 1802, in her 83rd year. Where now is the boast, that they and their forefathers of Sand, were a branch of the family of Huyshe, of Seed, Huyshe, and Doniford, county of Somerset; and that the blood of the Plantagenets flowed in their veins, through Joan, daughter of the first Edward? Nothing can now avail them, but their endeavours, through the grace of our great God and Saviour Jesus Christ, to be prepared to meet that Saviour as their Judge. Reader! the same judgement awaiteth thee." Over is a lozenge,

charged quarterly—1. Argent, on a bend sable, three fishes of the field, for Huyshe. 2. Argent, five lozenges in fess sable, between two barrulets, gules, for Avenel. 3. Argent, a cross engrailed, gules between four water bougets sable, for Bourchier. 4. Masonry argent and sable, a chief indented of the last, for Reynel. Nave-floor.—A stone, inscription partly defaced. “John Hack, ——— 3rd day of August, Anno. 1539.” West wall.—Stone tablet, for N. Warren, gent. of Mincombe, who died Oct. 29, 1737, and his brother John, June 3, 1707. A white marble tablet, for N. Warren, esq., of Mincombe, who died Jan. 1, 1760; Emily, his widow, Feb. 1, 1800; and Mary Abell, their last surviving daughter, Jan. 4, 1821, aged 79. On the floor of the north aisle, is a memorial for Catharine, daughter of Thomas Jackson, esq., of Cinningstone, in the county of Limerick, and Helena his wife, June 22, 1814. The windows of the north aisle, have lables on the outside, supported by rude corbel human heads; at the east end, the stones of the wall are wrought into a chequered ornament, and under the eaves, along the north and south sides, runs a corbel table of heads. The west entrance is crowned with a pointed arch, ornamented with knots of flowers, and a label springing from rude corbel heads. Over one of the entrances, is a sun-dial, with this inscription:—“Ut hora sic vita.” In the church-yard, I observed a handsome tomb of the highly-respected family of Jenkins, thus inscribed:—Sacred to the memory of the Rev. William Jenkins, M. A., formerly vicar of Upottery, in this county, who departed this life Oct. 13th, 1779, in the 63rd year of his age. Also Mrs. Joan Jenkins, his widow, who departed this life, April 27, 1803, in the 84th year of her age. Also Thomas Jenkins, esq., son of the above-

named, who departed this life, Oct. 18, 1814, aged 54. Sacred to the memory of Joseph Jenkins, esq., who died October 26, 1821, aged 70 years. Cofford-house, in this parish, was the pleasant residence of this family. The church is dedicated to St. Giles. It is a vicarage, in the peculiar jurisdiction of the dean and chapter of Exeter.—First-fruits, £28; yearly tenths, £2 16s; net annual value, £476. The Rev. Henry Fellows, is the present vicar.

HONITON.

Honiton is a good market-town, parliamentary borough and parish, situate in the hundred of Axminster, sixteen miles north-east from Exeter, ten north from Seaton, and one hundred and fifty-six west south-west of London. It contains a population of 3509 souls, and sends two members to parliament. This interesting and comparatively handsome town, consisting chiefly of two spacious streets, well-paved and lighted; and presenting well-built ranges of brick houses, occupies the bosom of one of the richest and most beautiful vales in the county of Devon; through which the river Otter takes its devious course.* In 1747, and again in 1765, this place suffered severely from fire; by the latter event, one hundred and fifteen houses were destroyed, with a portion of the chapel; the total loss of property

* From Upottery, the Otter descends into the vale of Honiton; and according to Camden, derives its name from the British words 'Cwn y tun. Oppidum caninæ aquæ. Cwn signifying dogs, and y water.' Honiton probably derived its name from Onnen y tun, oppidum fraxinæ aquæ, a town on an ash river. Vid. Baxter in voce Hunnium.

amounted to £11,000. These devastations, by which a great proportion of the old buildings were swept away, gave rise to improvements in the formation of the streets, and to the adoption of a uniformity of character in the modern houses, that, otherwise, in all probability, would not have been effected with so much architectural harmony and taste; and have tended, perhaps, more than any other circumstance, to render Honiton one of the prettiest inland towns in the county. In the front street, nearly a mile in length, and along which the coaches running between Exeter and London pass, are situated the new chapel hereinafter noticed, a splendid building in the Norman style of architecture, the public rooms, where the business of the borough is transacted; the principal shops, the banking-houses, and the following inns:—the Golden Lion, by Mr. Wheaton; the Dolphin, by Mr. Blake; the Black Lion, by Mr. Mockridge; the Angel, by Mr. Lee; the Swan, by Mr. Saunders; the Anchor, by Mr. Porter; the Lamb, by Mr. Hussey; and the Exeter Inn; the first mentioned two are the head inns, at which the stage coaches change horses, and where vehicles and saddle-horses are to be had for hire. The Star Inn, a good house for the entertainment of the public, by Mr. Bishop, is situated in the next best street, and has been lately enlarged.

Honiton possesses claims to very high antiquity,*

* Westcote says, "this towne claymes prioritie for antiquitie before many other. But for the name, yf I should say yt was taken from the abundance of honye there made or found, I perswade myself you would smyle; and yet that may not be altogether sans reason, in regard of the hills adjoining, on which abundance of thyme or tyme grows, in which these pretye creatures are much delighted, and feed most willingly theron, whereof the poet speaks:

Crura thime plena.
Their thiges with tyme laden were,
(For tyme he means honey there.)

having probably originated from a station of the Romans near to it, called Hembury Fort; where, and at Dumbdon, two miles north-east of the town, are traces of intrenched camps, supposed to have been the Moridunum of Antoninus. In Domesday Book, it is written "Honetone."—In other early records it is "Hunitone,"—"Hunniton," and "Hunnington." Honiton sent members to parliament so early as the reign of Edward the first, but for some cause they were discontinued in Edward the second's reign; and after a long lapse of time, the elective franchise was renewed in 1640, through the instrumentality and influence of William Pole, esq., an ancestor of the present Sir W. T. Pole, bart., of Shute, a neighbouring parish. Since the latter period, the return of the representatives have been regularly exercised. The right of election, is in the inhabitant householders, within the limits of the an-

But the cause of the name cannot easily be known but by conjecture, which as yt doth sometyne deceive the imagination, so yt doth also, and as often (grounded upon probable reason) hytt the whyt, and expresse the (aymed at) veritie. It is a great thorowfare from Cornwall, Plymouth, and Exeter, to London; and for the better receipt of travellers, very well furnished with inns. Sir W. Pole says, "the town of Honiton, in the hundred of Axminster, lieth a little advanced over the river of Ottery, which divideth it from Combraleigh. This town is near three quarters of a mile in length, lying east and west; and in the midst, there is one other street, toward the south. It is a very pretty town, indifferently well-built, and sweetly seated, both for corn and pasture." Gough says:—"Honiton is a considerable Market and borough town, set under a lofty hill, which commands a beantiful and extensive prospect, and on which stands its church." And thus writes Shaw:—"For its present condition, Honiton is indebted to that dreadful fire, which reduced three parts of it to ashes. The houses now wear a pleasing aspect, and the principal street, extending from east to west, is paved in a remarkable manner, forming a small canal, well shouldered up on each side with pebbles and green turf, which holds a stream of clear water, with a square dipping-place, opposite each door; a mark of cleanliness and convenience, I never saw before.

cient borough, not receiving alms, called "Potwallopers: in number about 480; and by the act of the second of William the fourth, chapter 45, it has been extended to the £10 house-renters, residing without the limits of the borough, but within that part of the parish incorporated with it for election purposes, adding about forty to the former constituency. By the same enactment, the town is made a polling-place for the south division of the county of Devon. The municipal affairs of the town, are under the direction of a portreeve, bailiff, and two ale-tasters; who, together with a constable, two tythingmen, and other officers, are appointed at the manor-court, held on Michaelmas-day. By an ancient charter, granted to the lord, the portreeve possesses magisterial powers to hold monthly courts, and to make bye-laws for the government of the borough, but he has long ceased to exercise them; the sole jurisdiction being now vested in the county magistrates, who hold petty sessions here monthly. The magistrates who generally attend these sessions are as follows:—Sir E. Pridaux, bart., Sir John Kennaway, bart., Sir John Talbot, bart., Charles Gordon, esq., the Rev. J. G. Copleston, E. M. Elton, esq., G. Smith, esq., and Major Still.

The county assizes were held at Honiton in the year 1590, in consequence of the plague prevailing at Exeter at that time. Sir Edmund Anderson, and Mr. Baron Gent, opened the commission at the Castle of Exeter, and immediately adjourned to Honiton, where seventeen criminals were convicted, for the most part, for murder, and left for execution. Lord Gray quartered his forces here the night before he defeated the Cornish rebels at Fenny-bridge; and during the civil war, Charles the first passed and returned through

this town, where he slept, and was entertained on both occasions at the mansion of John Marwood, esq., an ancestor of the present Edward Marwood Elton, esq., of Widworthy-court, in an adjoining parish; these royal visits took place on July 25, and Sept. 23, 1644. Fairfax, the Parliamentary General, in 1645, after his successful campaign through the West of England, visited Honiton.

Westcote informs us that "Isabella de Ripariis, (or de Fortibus,) gave yt (when the heyres male of that noble family fayled) to Edward the first. But before that, in the raigne of King John, Fulco de Brient, (or Fulk de Breant,) held the burrough, in right of Mable, or Margaret, his wife, daughter of Robert, Earl of Mallent, the relict of William de Vernon, Earl of Devon." From Risdon, we learn that Drogo, a Saxon, held this manor before the conquest, but that the conqueror gave it and the borough of Honiton, to his half-brother, Robert, Earl of Moreton, who was son of Harlotta, the conqueror's mother. He was made also Earl of Cornwall, to whom succeeded William his son, who, siding with Robert, the Norman, against Henry the first, lost both his liberty and honours. Thus Honiton, together with his lands, escheated to the crown, and Henry the first gave them to Richard de Redvers, whom he made Earl of Devon; and Isabel de Fortibus, last of the family of Redvers, gave or sold them to Edward the first, together with the Isle of Wight. The king gave Honiton to Sir John Knovil; and some time afterwards, Hugh Courtenay, second of that name, when restored to the Earldom of Dévon, obtained this manor, either by purchase, or as parcel of the earldom. In this notable family, the manor still continues, connected with which are the several other manors in the parish, and the lord para-

mount, the present earl, "has view of frank pledge, assize of bread and ale, and tumbrell, and pillory, belonging to it."*

The nominal manor of Batishorn, consisting of 597 acres, was granted by Isabel, countess of Devon and Albemarle, to Sir G. Knovill, knight, and it descended to the two daughters of Sir John de Knovill, Elinor and Ann, the latter married to T. Ercedecne, and the former to J. Dun. Elinor's part descended to Sir A. Powlet, who sold it to W. Younge, esq., who purchased the other part also, after it had escheated to the crown, by the attainder of Humphry Arundell, who suffered in the time of Edward the sixth, for taking a part in the Cornish rebellion. The Right Hon. Sir G. Younge, bart., held this property.†

Northcote, an ancient manor, situated about a mile north-east of Honiton, was in the time of king Stephen, given by Baldwin de Redvers, earl of Devon, and lord of the whole of this parish, to the priory of Bramere, in Hampshire; and after the dissolution of abbeys, was purchased by Minify, from whom it passed to Pearce, and from Pearce to Blagdon. Northcote-house became the residence of John Blagdon, esq. Though impaired by the effects of time, and neglected for ages, having long been inhabited as a farmhouse, still enough remains for the antiquarian to ascertain the character of the original building,

• Polwhele.

† Extract from Sir G. Younge's papers. Manor of Batishorn, Arundell, and Powlett. Third of Edward the sixth, attainder of Humphry Arundell. Fourth of Edward the sixth, letters patent and grant of the manor of Batishorn, &c., late the property of H. Arundell, to Sir Gawen Carew, (5th of March,) fourth of Edward the sixth, (16th Dec.) bargain and sale from Sir G. Carew, to Sir Walter Younge, and John Younge, of the manor of Batishorn, Arundell, &c.

which was irregular in its construction, being erected and enlarged at various periods. It stands in a romantic situation, surrounded and secluded by orchards; and screened from the cold winds by Dumpton-hill, in the adjoining parish of Luppit, which seems to rise suddenly behind the edifice. A small village once stood near the house, of which no vestiges now remain. This is an ancient and independent manor, of considerable extent, being a tithing of itself, possessing a pound for strayed cattle, of which the Rev. Mr. Coney is the present lord. Here was also a small reputed manor, possessed by the Drake family, of Ash, in the parish of Musbury, to whom it came by purchase, from the Ashfords, of Ashford-court. Sir John Drake sold it to W. Gill, esq., of Honiton, from whom it descended to Mrs. Duke, his daughter.

Higher Blaincombe, in Edward the third's time, was the property of John Loterell, and remained in that name until sold to Richard Northcote, esq., of Honiton; it is now parcel of the manor. Both Blaincombes, the Higher and lower, were in Henry the third's reign, vested in Gilbert and Stephen de Blaincombe.

THE CHURCH.

The church of Honiton, which is a rectory in the archdeaconry and diocese of Exeter, is rated in the Queen's book at £40 4s. 2d.; patron, the Earl of Devon. Here are two churches, but the principal or mother church, is seated on a fine eminence, within the great manor, and nearly a mile south of the town. It is a fine old building, with aisles and a cross transept, in the English gothic style of architecture, having been renewed

on an enlarged scale in 1484, by Bishop Courtenay, who bestowed on it the chaste and elegant screen which now adorns its interior. The nave measures seventy-eight feet in length, by eighteen in width; and its fine embattled square tower, rises to the height of sixty-three feet, forming a picturesque object in the vicinity of the town. The arms of Peter, Lord Courtenay—A field or, three torteauxes, with a label azure of three points, charged with nine plates; and the motto—"Quod verum tutum," are engraven on some of the columns of the interior. The aisles are supposed to have been added to the fabric by John Takel, a gentleman of the parish, as the following inscription appears on their pillars:—"Pray for the souls of John Takel, and Joan, his wife;" and near a column, on the north side, is their tombstone thus inscribed:—"Hic jaceth Johanna Takel vidua, quæ obiit 13 Die Julii Anno Dni 1529. Cujus Animæ parcat Deus.—Amen." Near the entrance, is a handsome monument for Dr. Thomas Marwood, who had been physician to Queen Elizabeth: He was born in 1511, and died here on September 18, 1617, at the extraordinary age of 105. The tomb is of black marble, and has lately been restored by Edward Marwood Elton, esq., of Widworthy court. This gentleman was succeeded by his son John, who built a good house, near the town, for his residence, still standing, on a chimney-piece of which is inscribed his name, and that of his wife Bridget, in gold letters, with the date of the building. It was in this house that he entertained on Thursday, the 25th of July, 1644, the unfortunate king Charles the first. There is another respectable monument here, for Sir James Shepherd, knight, sergeant at law, who died in 1730, and memorials of the following persons: Joan Takel,

widow, 1529; John Blagdon, esq., 1714; John Gill, gent., and William Gill, esq., barristers at law, 1744. On a stone is this inscription: "*Hic jacet Magister Johannes Rygge, quondam rector hujus ecclesiæ, & Thesaur. Crediton—ejus animæ parcat Deus. Amen.*" Here is a good organ, and a handsome altar-piece of white stone, erected for the most part, at the expense of the Rev. C. Bertie, an incumbent. In enumerating the benefactions of Peter Courtenay, Bishop of Exeter, and afterwards Bishop of Winchester,* Cleveland makes it appear that this fabric is of a much later date than the old chapel of Allhallows, in the town. He says, "This prelate, (Peter Courtenay,) built the tower of the present church, as his father's arms impaled with those of his mother, in the tower window do show." Polwhele adds: "He likewise built a good part of the church, which in his days was made from a little chapel, dedicated to St. Michael, into a handsome parish church."

THE NEW CHURCH.

The inconveniency long felt by the inhabitants of Honiton, in having to mount the hill in winter to the parish-church, and the inadequate accommodation afforded by the ancient chapel of Allhallows, situated in the centre of the borough, conduced to the erection of the present noble edifice. Early in the spring of 1837, the old fabric of Allhallows was demolished; and on its site, the new building immediately commenced, under the able direction of Mr. William Lee, of Honiton, builder, from a plan by Mr. Fowler, architect. It stands nearly south and north, and comprises a fine Norman tower, raised to the height

* Peter Courtenay translated to Winchester, 1477.

of one hundred and two feet, surmounted at the angles by pyramidical finals; a nave, sixty feet high, opening into corresponding side aisles, by seven splendid circular arches, on either side, springing from square carved capitals, which rest on massive round columns of Beer stone, measuring within the walls, one hundred feet in length, exclusive of the tower, by fifty-four wide; a chancel, projecting outward, at the north extremity of the nave, which forms the segment of a circle, whose chord is twenty-four feet; and a very capacious vestry-room, with other conveniences under the chancel, which is vaulted with brick. The aisles, on each side, are lighted by seven handsome windows; and above the roof of each aisle, is a chaste range of fourteen Norman windows, opening in upon the nave. The lower division of the circular wall of the chancel, is thrown into niches or pannels, which are separated by columns, and crowned by circular arches; and over them five beautiful windows throw in their light full on the altar. The pulpit is of Beer stone, handsomely executed, and resting on a column of the same material, carved into lines of cable twist. In pointing to the style in which the ornamental parts of the building, such as the windows, columns, and arches, the pulpit, &c., are executed, I need only state, that these portions of the work were wholly under the superintendence of Mr. Knight, of Exeter, whose happy style of execution, and correct taste, are eminently exhibited in the arms of England, surmounted by the crown, by him cut in Beer-stone, over the front of the chancel. On each side is a handsome gallery, and at the south-end, an organ gallery, which communicates with the tower by an elliptical arch. The Norman style of architecture is carried into complete

effect throughout the entire building; and had Mr. Fowler, the architect, and Mr. Lee, the builder, done nothing else to establish their fame, this beautiful and interesting temple, as a specimen of their well-known professional talents and ingenious taste, would, in itself, be amply sufficient to bear their names down to posterity, as ornaments of the age in which they live. The estimated expense of this elegant edifice, was £6600; but the additional ground required for the site, together with the exterior details of the work and approaches, increase that sum to £11,000, the whole of which, with the exception of a small grant from the society for the enlargement of churches and chapels, have been contributed by voluntary subscription. This is, indeed, a noble and splendid demonstration of the good feeling and zeal which prevail among the respectable classes at Honiton, in favour of their national church; not the result of the munificence of one wealthy individual, but the combined and popular expression and effort of many hundreds, who now look with becoming and highly-commendable pride and satisfaction on the beautiful temple which they have reared for the honour of God, and illustration of his laws.

For the support of the chapel of Allhallows, Sir John Kirkham, and Elizeus Harding, clerk, in the year 1524, gave lands in Honiton and Yacombe; and it is supposed by some of our best writers, that it was a church distinct from St. Michael's for some centuries before that period. It was renewed, on an enlarged scale, about the year 1790. St. Margaret's Hospital, situated a little west of the town, to which a chapel was annexed, was founded by Thomas Chard, the last Abbot of Ford, in 1589, for four lepers; it is now thrown into accommodations for the residence of the

governor, and eight poor persons, who have each a small stipend from lands, producing about £65 per annum. The grammar-school, founded at an early period, was in 1614, endowed by a gift from the Rev. John Fley, and other benefactions, then amounting to £12 per annum. The Rev. R. Lewis, M. A., is the present master, a gentleman of high attainments as a scholar, and greatly esteemed by the parishioners. The national school was established under the auspices of the present munificent rector, the Rev. V. H. P. Somerset, aided by a grant from the society in London, of £150 towards the building. The master has a salary of £50 per annum, arising partly from the dividends of £300 stock, in the four per cents, a bequest from the Rev. J. How, in 1816.

The classical and commercial boarding school of Mr. Woodgates, occupying a fine salubrious station on the south side of the town, has long been a popular establishment for the education of young gentlemen, there being generally from 100 to 150 boarders in the house, who are liberally educated by their kind-hearted and talented master, and assistants. Adjoining the spacious school-room, which is detached from the main building, is a beautiful play-ground, for the accommodation of the boys.

Another excellent boarding-school, occurs in the adjoining parish of Ottery St. Mary, which is conducted by Mr. Henry Newbury, a gentleman of highly-respectable attainments.

In Honiton, are places of worship for the Independent, Wesleyan Methodist, and Unitarian persuasions. Dissent from the establishment, commenced here as early as the year 1655, but does not appear to have flourished until 1662, when the rector being unable to comply with the terms of the act of uniformity, was ejected from

the living, and became a dissenting preacher in the town. The Unitarian chapel, situated near the bridge, at the lower part of the town, was renewed in 1737, and is at this time a respectable place of worship. The appointment of its ministers, since 1721, have been as follows:—J. Maynard, 1721; Sprague and Wheeler, 1753; F. Webb, 1757; P. Adams, 1758; S. Freeman, 1787; J. Hughes, 1793; the Rev. James Taplin, the present highly-respected minister, 1831.

Tracey-house, the seat of H.B. Lott, esq., situated on a beautiful lawn, north of the new church;* the seats of C. Flood, and P. Mules, esquires, on the Exeter road, may be here mentioned as the principal mansions in the immediate vicinity of the town; but there are many other good houses here entitled to distinction.

The shops of Honiton, generally, have a particularly clean, airy, and respectable appearance. The following are the principal:—Drapers, Mr. Robert Rose, Mr. E. Lathy, Mr. J. Newbury, Mr. N. J. Read, Mr. J. Lee, Mr. Paris. Chemists and Druggists:—Mr. J. L. Williams, Mr. W. Rogers, Mr. A. Stark, sen., Mr. Stark, jun., Mr. Need. Grocers:—Mr. D. Pidgeon, Mr. W. White,

* This interesting seat, which has, of late years, been greatly improved and beautified by its present esteemed possessor, is thus noticed by Polwhele:—"Tracey's Hayes, took its name from its old lords the Traceys, and was some time parcel of the manor of Ivedon, which though it be in this parish, (Awliscombe,) belongs to the hundred of Tiverton. It is a pleasant little seat, situated on the south side of St. Cyre's-hill, within three parts of a mile of Honiton. It came to the Chards, by marriage with the heiress of Tracey. This family of Chard, is supposed to have been descended from Thomas Chard, the last abbot of Ford-abbey, at the dissolution, and the founder of the hospital at Honiton. Awliscombe, was certainly the birth-place of the abbot. The late Mr. John Chard, the last male branch of the family, gave this estate to his sister's son, John Charde Lewis, a minor; for whom his father John Lewis, built a house at Tracey. John Charde Lewis, died a bachelor, and this estate, by purchase, became the property of Jenkins.

Mr. T. Basleigh, Mr. G. White, Mrs. E. Davey, Mr. N. Wakey. Ironmongers:—Mr. W. Murch, Mr. J. Wyatt, Mr. Munk. Spirit Merchants:—Mr. John Pidgeon, Mr. W. White, Mr. James Basleigh. Tea-dealer and Draper: Mr. Mackno. Builders:—Mr. Lee and Mr. Clapp. Printers and Stationers:—Mr. J. Knight, Mrs. Spurway. Curriers and Leather Cutters:—Mr. Frost, Mr. T. Pratt. China and Glass Warehouse:—Mrs. Vincent.—Silver and Goldsmiths:—Mr. G. Turner, Mr. Murch, Mr. T. Salter. Auctioneers and Appraisers.—Mr. J. Porter, Mr. J.B. Hussey.

The manufacture of serges was established here at an early period, and the town was long noted for the quality and quantity of the lace that it produced, some kinds of which sold at £5 per yard. The serge trade declined here on the invention and application of machinery in its manufacture in Yorkshire and other places; but the lace-making, though for some length of time in a languid state, was revived, under the patronage of Queen Adelaide, who appointed Mrs. Albion Davey, to be her Majesty's lace-maker in ordinary for Honiton. Mrs. A. Davey, who gave great satisfaction to her Royal patroness, has the arms of England, handsomely cut on the front of her establishment. But the greatest encouragement ever given to the lace-trade of Honiton, is now enjoyed, under the patronage of our present young and beautiful Sovereign, Queen Victoria, who, on Dec. 18, 1837, was most graciously pleased to appoint Mrs. Clarke, of Honiton, her lace-maker in ordinary for this district, during her royal pleasure. The consequence is, that the quality of this beautiful article is so vastly improved, that with it no foreign lace can bear a comparison. I have seen her Majesty's arms, in lace, wrought by Mrs. Clarke, in a style of pre-

cision and elegance, which at once shows her good judgment and taste ; and how worthy she is of her Majesty's patronage. Mr. Porter's furniture establishment, affords an ample supply of furniture, of every description ; and as the whole of it is made under his own eye, and therefore depended on as being of the very best quality, together with the moderation of his charges, he commands, not only the patronage of the neighbourhood, but of distant places ; and therefore his extensive business is a considerable acquisition to the trade of the town. The manufacture of earthenware flourishes here, and a considerable trade is derived from the celebrated Honiton scythe stones, which are formed out of a peculiar stone, found in the vicinity, and a silicious stone, intermixed with sea-shells, brought from the Black-down hills, about six miles north of the town. Honiton is famous as a mart for butter and cheese ; a large quantity of the former article is sent weekly to London. The markets held by prescription, are on Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Saturdays, the latter being the principal. An annual fair for sheep, oxen, and horses, takes place on the Wednesday and Thursday after the 19th of July ; and there are great markets on the second Saturday in April, and the Saturday before the 18th of October.

At the east end of the town, stands Holy-shut Cottage, the property and residence of the Rev. Mr. Ellicote, so called from its proximity to a celebrated spring of water of that name, which has been long resorted to by invalids.

The professional gentlemen of Honiton, besides those already named, are—Solicitors : Messrs. Flood and Mules ; R. H. Aberdeen, esq. ; J. H. Townsend, esq. ; W. Carpenter, esq. ; B. B. Smark, esq. ; L. Gidley, esq. ; J. J. Cox, esq. ; D. Gould,

esq. J. Melliush, esq. Surgeons--P. P. Nesbitt, esq., M.D.; J. C. Gerrard, esq.; E. C. Holland, esq., W. Woodward, esq.; S. Devonshire, esq.; — Sweeting, esq. Bankers—Messrs. Flood, Lott and Lott. The National and Provincial Bank of England, in the management of C. Robertson, Esq. Portreeve—W. Rogers, esq.

CONCLUSION.

The coast range of South Devon, bordering on the English channel, from Lyme Regis, in Dorsetshire, for twenty-two miles, measuring in a direct line to the mouth of the river Exe at Exmouth, is lined throughout its whole extent with bold cliffs, and marked by one head-land, called Beer-head, situated at the Western extremity of Seaton Bay.—The rivers Axe and Otter enter the sea in the course of this line. From the mouth of the Exe, the coast lined with cliffs, as before, runs south-south-west, six miles to the mouth of the Teign, at Teignmouth; and from thence five miles south or south by east to the head-land, called Hope's Nose, at the northern extremity of Torbay. Torbay is a deep indent, bounded on the south by Berry-head, distant about five miles from Hope's Nose, having a shelving beach at the bottom of the bay, interrupted by a bluff head-land, called Roundham, and an abrupt coast, towards each extremity. Torbay, or rather Brixham, is memorable, as the place in which William, Prince of Orange, afterward William the Third, landed on Nov. 4, 1688. Berry-head must be the "Promontorium Hellenis" of the ancients, according to Richard of Cirencester.

From Berry-head, the coast still possesses the same bluff character, and runs south-south-west,

five or six miles to the mouth of the Dart at Dartmouth. On this part of the coast, away over the town of Brixham, in a situation of great beauty, stands the elegant house of Lupton, the residence of our highly and justly-esteemed representative in parliament, Sir John Buller Yarde Buller, bart., a statesman, whose genuine worth as a gentleman, a legislator of distinguished probity and talents, and above all, his disinterested benevolence, has gained for him an enduring and enviable pre-eminence in this his native county. The town of Brixham has the honour of possessing another eminent individual, in the person and character of their clergyman, the Rev. H. F. Lyte :—so long as the labours and generosity of a pious and faithful minister of the church of God will continue to be appreciated by mankind, will the name of Lyte be associated with every thing that is good and great in this neighbourhood. His hymns, and other poetical effusions, extant, show that he is a legitimate member of the family of genius. His stanzas are exquisitely finished ; and their polish can only be surpassed by their brilliancy : he is tender as Ovid, pure and majestic as Virgil ; and his strains flow like streams of Paradise, which breathed only music, and reflected only beauty.

From the mouth of the Dart to Start Point, nine miles, the shore forms a wide shallow bay, called (Start Bay,) lined with a high sandy beach, called Slapton Sands, that intercepts the flow of the waters which descend from the interior, towards the ocean, and has formed a lagoon, (Slapton Lee,) similar to the etangs of Gascogne or Languedoc. From Start Point, we pursue a high rocky shore, which runs west south-west, four miles to Prawle-point, the southern extremity of Devon, and thence three miles west by north, across the

wide estuary of the Kingsbridge river to Bolt-head, a promontory four hundred and thirty feet high, and thence four or five miles onward, in the same direction, to Bolt-tail. From this latter point, the shore continues to be lined with cliffs, and runs west-north-west, to the entrance of Plymouth sound, distant twelve miles in a straight line from Bolt-tail. This interval is in part occupied by the capacious and shallow Bigbury-bay, into which the rivers Avon or Aune, and Erme, flow; and by the mouth of the river Yealm. About three or four miles of coast, on the west side of Plymouth Sound, belong to Devon. Plymouth Sound is more than three miles wide, and extends many miles inward. It receives from the north-west the Tamar, (united with the Lynher, or St. German's river,) upon the estuary of which, called the Hamoaze, is the town of Devonport, the royal dock-yard of which ranks next in importance to that of Portsmouth; and from the north-east, the Plym, the estuary of which is called Catwater, Mill-bay, and Sutton-pool, are small inlets, at the bottom of Plymouth sound; the latter is almost encircled by the town of Plymouth. The Sound, with the estuaries of the streams that run into it, forms one of the finest harbours in Britain, for extent and safety. It is secured from the heavy pressure of the sea, which formerly set into it, by a break-water, nearly a mile in length, and extending across the centre of the Sound. The whole extent of the south coast of Devon may be estimated at about one hundred miles on the English channel. This beautiful and interesting part of our shore, presents a charming section of the various strata, as they rise in succession, from Bridport to the mouth of the Exe; the sea having laid the surface bare, the whole line presents a frontier of

perpendicular rocks, broken at intervals by bays and valleys running inland. The blue lias, covered by the green sand, rises from the sea at Bridport, and extends from thence to the river Axe, with but little interruption. This is the most remarkable and best characterized of our British strata; the whole thickness of this bed, cannot be less than two hundred yards. It is composed of numerous thin strata of dark grey lime-stone, combined with much clay and iron, and some manganese. Many of the strata form an excellent water lime-stone; the beds of dark clay which intervene, abound with pyrites, and have been known to take fire spontaneously. The strata rises gradually to the south-west, but there are numerous breaks, which throw them down on the western sides of such breaks, from ten to thirty feet. Large masses, from the perpendicular cliffs of lias, are constantly falling down, and discovering the imbedded petrifications of numerous tribes of extinct animals. The lias lime-stone, is the lowest of the British lime-stone that contain the remains of oviparous quadrupeds, or of any vertebrated animals; that is, those which have a brain and spinal marrow. Remains of fossil alligators, in a mutilated state, are very frequently found. About a mile west of Lyme Regis, there is a small formation of chalk at Pinney, resting on the fox-mole, over the lias. The lias continues to near Axminster,* where several

* Sector, in this parish, will be sought for and visited by the next, and many future generations of mankind, as having been the residence and property of James Davidson, esq., the antiquary and historian. We have in this excellent gentleman, the rare occurrence of an acute and skillful antiquarian, a most ingenious and beautiful writer of history, and his descriptive powers as a topographer, may be assimilated to those of the painter Bano, of whom it is said, "that the loves had mixed his colours, and the graces had modelled his designs."

of the lower beds lose their dark grey colour, and are called white lias. This white lias may be seen distinctly resting on the red marl east of Axminster; and the same bed of lias runs northward, through Dorset, Somerset, and Gloucester, and even into some of the northern counties of England, carrying with it in its whole extent, numerous fossil remains of ammonites, pentacrinites, nautilites, scaly-fish, and the bones of alligators. The red marl, which succeeds the lias, is suddenly broken on the west side of the river Axe, and a small formation of chalk, makes its appearance at Beer, where we are presented with a fantastic range of chalk rocks and caverns; the chalk forming perpendicular cliffs, projecting into the sea. The fox-mold or green sand succeeds, and then the red marble, which extends from near Beer to Sidmouth, and to the west of Exmouth, constitute a range of precipitous cliffs, rising from the sea to the height of six hundred feet, at several parts of its course, especially at Salcombe, and the Peak beyond Sidmouth. The red marl, consists of silicious particles, mixed with clay, and deeply-coloured by the red oxyd of iron, as before noticed, rises from under the lias lime-stone. Now where this lime-stone occurs, it is generally above the coal formation, but in the south of Devon, no trace of coal has as yet appeared, and the red marl supplies the place of both, extending from the river Axe, to some miles west of the Exe, where it is found resting on coarse slate. The red marl, in some parts, contains beds of gypsum, and it is not improbable that rock-salt, or brine-springs may exist in some parts of Devon, where this extensive stratum abounds. The green sand or fox-mold, though a member of the chalk formation, and immediately subjacent to chalk, is carried,

not only over the lias, but over the red marl, and forms caps on many of the highest hills, from Black Down on the east, to Haldon, six miles west of Exeter; it contains numerous silicious masses conglomerated; in which a kind of opaque horn-stone can be traced, passing into flint; the flint also may be traced, passing into beautiful calcedony, and the latter again forming into quartz crystals. It is evident that the process is now going on, although we are unacquainted with the causes by which it is effected. The presence of marine shells, ammonites, and other productions of the ocean, prove, beyond any doubt, that the highest of our hills, in the south of Devon, were once overflowed by the waves of the sea. And a still further proof, is the vast heaps of rounded pebbles and gravel, found on the high ground between Sidmouth and Exeter.* The principal sorts of freestone found in this county, are in the parishes of Salcombe-regis, Branscombe, Beer, Widworthy, and Offwell. The exterior of the Exeter Cathedral, is of Salcombe stone. It works easy in the quarry, and stands the effects of the weather well, having resisted, without a blemish, the frosts of more than six hundred winters in the latter building. The Branscombe and Beer free stone, is of a softer nature; and although not so durable as that of Salcombe, it is in quality, and every essential respect, equal to, if not superior to the Bath stone, which it greatly resembles. From the great quarry at Beer, belonging to Lord Rolle, and wrought under lease by Mr. Murch, of Colyton, immense quantities of this stone are annually sent to London, Exeter, and other towns; and throughout the south-east of Devon, a good house

* See Bakewell.

or church is seldom to be seen, in which this beautiful stone is not, in some parts employed. All the vaulted roof and ornaments of the arches in the cathedral of Exeter, are of this stone : The Widworthy and Offwell stone, is only a continuation of the same bed. A fine stratum of limestone commences in the parish of Salcombe where it lies near the surface, and is in some places no more than three feet thick, but in others from twenty to thirty, rising and sinking with the surface. The bed of lime dips and thickens to the eastward ; and at Branscombe and Gatcombe, where large quarries have been opened, the lime strata are in some parts forty feet in depth. In some places, we have large spots of this stone, apparently detached from the main body. At Gatcombe, this bed dips, and no trace of it is to be found until it makes its appearance again at Widworthy and Offwell, accompanied with the freestone, and other characteristics.

Traces of alluvion, are strongly exhibited in every part of our southern shore. Blackdown, is doubtless, an alluvial mountain, as it contains petrifications, as well as other organic substances, and must have been a bank of sand and shells, raised and formed by the sea. This stratum of sand, after its emergence from the waters, was evidently formed into rock by some silicious cement, which also served to fill the places before occupied by the calcareous substance of the shells. On Haldon, and other high grounds, in south Devon, there are similar traces of alluvion. The same sort of soil and stone, and shells, imbedded in the sand stone before stated, are found in both ; and being of the same height, though fifteen miles apart, it is not improbable that the intermediate ground or stratum, that had originally connected these downs, had been forced away by

some posterior convulsions of nature. Woodbury Down, from the immense quantities of rounded pebbles and water-worn stones on it, is evidently water-formed, and must have, at some period, composed a sea beach. Indeed, the effects of the deluge may be seen on the rocks by the sides of the hills, which are smoothed by the action of the water, or shattered by its force; and the quantities of water-formed stones that remain around them. The vallies, in some places, are of a smooth and even surface, but often gravelly and sandy; and in other parts, they are thrown into wild irregularities. In short, independent of every other species of evidence, the sinuous contour of the hills, with their corresponding vallies, and the variety of forms which the intermediate swells and inequalities present, are sufficiently indicative of the nature of their formation; particularly of the vales of Combyne, Seaton, Salcombe, and Sidmouth, all originating in the high ground inland, and terminating in the English channel. To which may be added, the beautiful concavities of Southleigh, communicating with the vale of Colyton and that of Honiton, disembodying into the source of the river Otter. When, in consequence of heavy rains in tropical countries, or sudden thaws in more northern climes, the rivers, at or near their embouchures, inundate the low land to any great extent, and the waters spread out, lose their velocity, and hence let fall the detrital matter with which they are charged; this detritus, though it covers the whole of the inundated surface, does not form in all parts a stratum of the same thickness; but every deviation from horizontality, produces a particular current in the moving mass of water; every tree, hillock, stone, or other obstruction, causes an eddy; and the natural result of their various currents and ed-

dies, is to distribute the sediment unequally over the bottom. When the waters begin to subside, some portions of the land are uncovered before the rest, forming as it were, a number of islands ; and the water as it runs off between these, deepens the hollows ; so that when the waters have subsided, the space is more uneven than it was before, and intersected by numerous channels, all converging towards the main trunk. By these, and probably other causes combined, have been formed the vast deltas of the Ganges and the Mississippi ; and on a less scale, those of the Wolga, with its fifty-six, the Orinoco, with its fifty, the Danube, with its five, and the Nile, with its seven channels. In these operations and overflowings of mere rivers and streamlets, we may see, in miniature, how the great deluge threw our surface into vagrant inequalities ; but the shattered state of the strata, in many parts, may be as much attributed to the effect of volcanic fires, as any other cause ; of which the red loam, lavas, tufa, Thorverton stone, and Pocombe hills, afford ample proofs. We may contemplate these great features of nature with interest and admiration ; and by analogy, trace their component parts, and thereby account for their formation ; but in prosecuting the lofty research, beyond self-evident facts, difficulties intervene, which seem too great for the limited knowledge of man to overcome ; and mysteries arise, that tend only to bewilder our faculties of discrimination, to bring us back to our own littleness, and to impress on our minds a just sense of the Divine greatness of the Creator. We, who now live, will soon be laid among the dust of our fathers, but these delicious vales and beautiful mountains, with their rocks, foliage, rivers, and innumerable blandishments, shall remain, for the admiration of every future

generation of mankind, until the final consummation :—

“ When lo ! the living harvest of the earth,
Reap'd from the grave to share a second birth ;
Millions of eyes, with one deep dreadful stare,
Gaze upward through the burning realms of air ;
While shapes and shrouds, and ghastly features gleam,
Like lucid snow-flakes in the moonlight beam.

The numerous villages and hamlets, scattered over the extensive district that I have just had the pleasure of surveying, and of which, for want of space, I have been unable to describe with that minuteness they merit, afford some of the most lovely sights on our coast. They are what they seem to be, the nestling places of poetry, love, and happiness; and gleam, with their white-washed cottages and garden-walls, from among the deep foliage of trees, by which they are embowered, like the golden fruits of Spain, peeping from beneath the rich leaves that but in part conceal them. Their meadows, their dimpling streamlets, their embattled church-towers, and hoary-gothic churches; their lattices, clustering with jessamine, honey-suckle, and woodbine; their gardens studded round with bee-hives, and orchards exhibiting odoriferous blossoms; their hedge-rows and lanes of sweet-brier and wild roses; and above all, their simple, yet cheerful inhabitants, ignorant of the great world, and unwilling to have their ignorance enlightened; all combine to render the villages on the south-east coast of Devon, the most delightful spots in our land.—These are, indeed, scenes of beauty, which well accord with the other varieties of the pictorial landscape of our shore.

It is a circumstance of deep and sober thankfulness, that we live in days, when Christian churches occupy the place of heathen temples,

and where the sound of the village-bell has succeeded the alarm of the Roman trumpet. Centuries have passed since a foreign enemy has gained a footing in our land. Other lands have been trodden under foot by the invader again and again. In our own days, every nation of Europe has been, in turn, the prey of the spoiler: their villages have been burnt, their cottages plundered, their peasantry made the sport of brutal violence:—We only have been spared; we have enjoyed our liberties, and the admirable civil and religious institutions of the country, whilst war has raged around us. May we feel the genuine spirit of gratitude for these inestimable blessings, to Him who is the Author and giver of them; and be enabled to preserve and cherish that peace and union amongst ourselves, which no foreign enemy has been able to disturb.

ERRATA:

Baycombe, represented in page 91, as belonging to W. Guppy, esq., is the property of the Rev. T. Putt; and Golacre House, in the same parish, (Farway) is the residence of Edward Guppy, esq., to whom it, with a considerable estate, descended from his father, who died in 1837.

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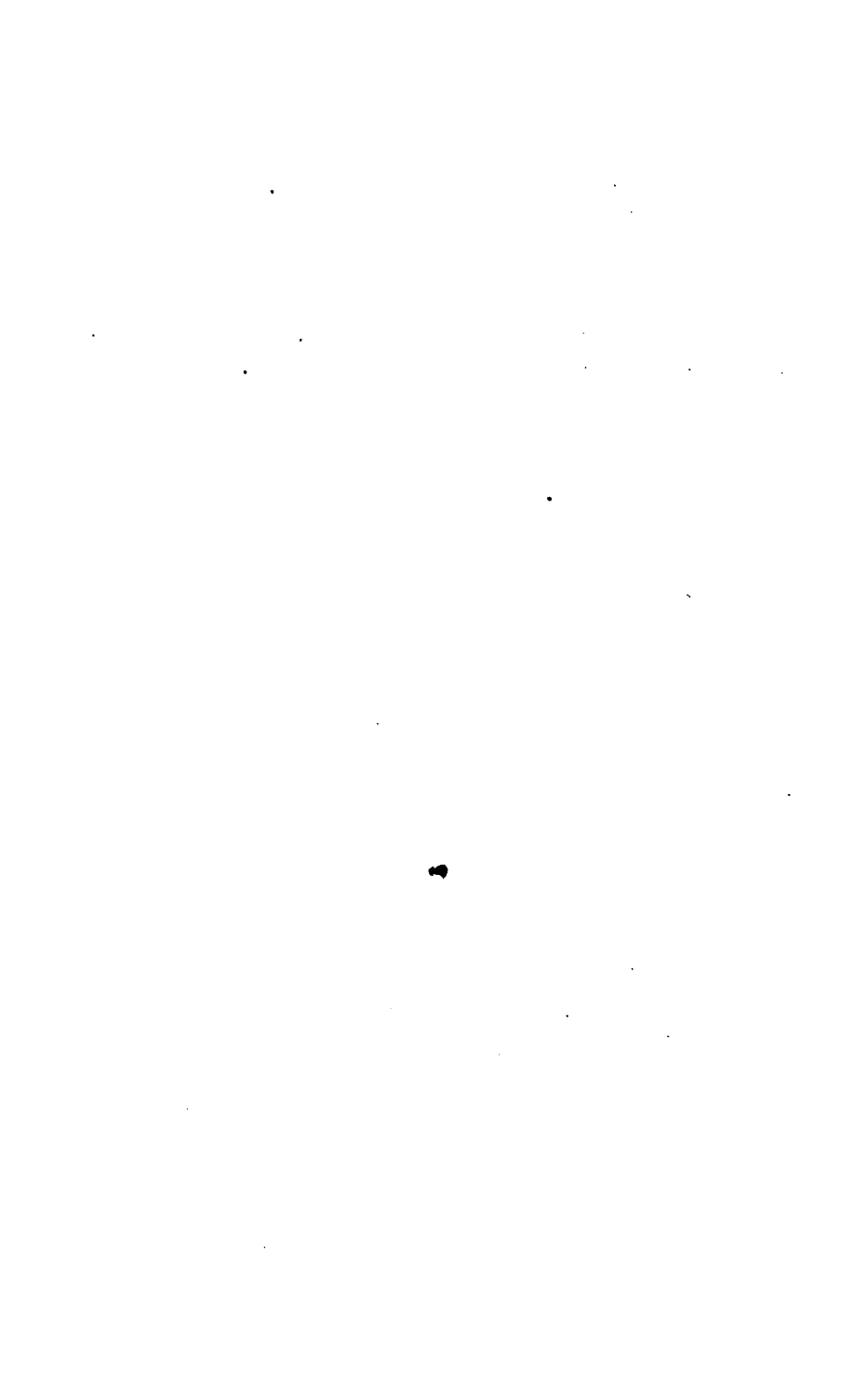
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* When I visited the Parish of WITHECOMBE RALEIGH, I regret that I had the misfortune to overlook this interesting Mansion.

Mr. HILL, of Exmouth, in a communication, which I received after my Work was printed, thus writes;—"I am exceedingly sorry that when here, you did not take a Note of St. JOHN'S, the beautiful residence of Charles SANDERS, Esq. It occupies a charming position, at the extremity of the sweetly diversified Domain of Bystock; and its distinguished owner, a Gentleman, not less celebrated for his high mental qualities, than his liberality and patriotism, has, by chaste and elegant improvements, rendered the House, with its accompaniments, an agreeable and romantic ornament to the rich encircling Landscape, including the Town of Exmouth."



ERRATA 2nd.

Among the Houses devoted to the accommodation and entertainment of the Public in Exmouth, as noticed on page 144, ought to have been enumerated the *White Hart Inn*, a very comfortable secondary house, conducted by Mr. G. STREET.

Page 145, *for Mr. Baston, read Mr. Bastin.*

—— 146, *for R. Pring, Esq., read R. Perrin, Esq.*

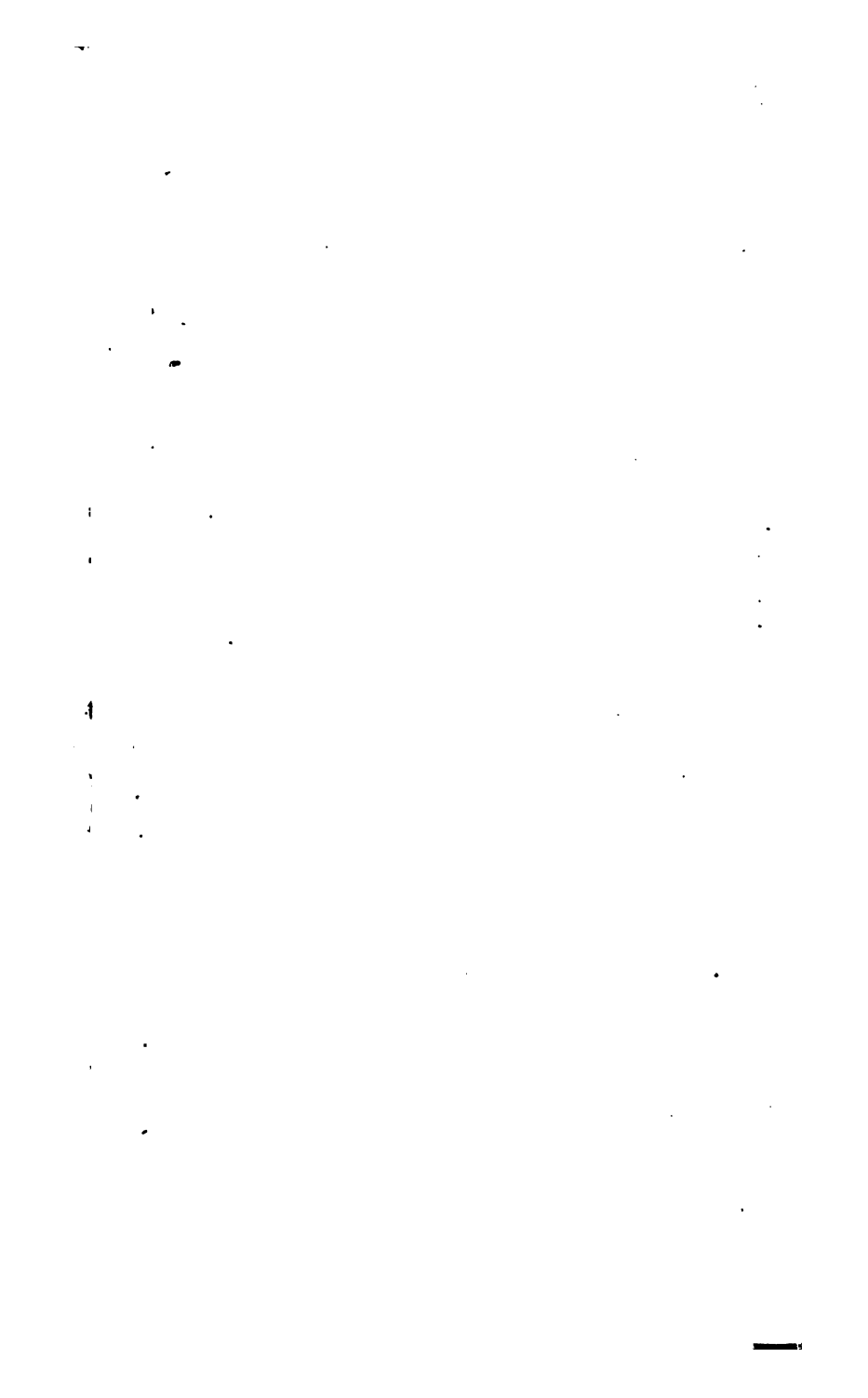
—— 150, *for G. Beach, Esq., read G. Black, Esq.*

——, *for — Spetticue, Esq., read — Spettigue, Esq.*

——, *for — Kean, Esq., read Kane, Esq.*

——, *for Mr. Palbey, read Mr. Palfry.*

—— 153, Courtlands, is now the Property of Mr. Spicer.



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